



Jordan Times

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'No' seen in Turkey referendum

ANKARA (AP) — A constitutional amendment to move up the date of local elections headed for defeat in a referendum Sunday despite Premier Turgut Ozal's threat to resign if it was overwhelmingly rejected. The Anatolia news agency said that with 12.9 per cent of the ballots counted, the vote was 65.3 per cent against the proposal and 34.7 per cent in favour. The referendum had been portrayed as a vote of confidence in the free-market economic policies of Ozal's government. Ozal has said he may retire from politics "depending upon the outcome of the referendum." The electorate was asked to say "Yes" or "No" to an amendment moving municipal voting from March 1989 to this November. Opposition parties have turned the relatively minor issue into a gauge of Ozal's popularity 10 months after the 61-year-old premier won reelection with 36 per cent of the vote and 290 seats in the 450-member parliament. Ozal has not made clear what kind of result will persuade him to remain in office. All public opinion polls have indicated the measure will be defeated. Most analysts think the premier will be satisfied if "yes" votes match the percentage his governing Motherland Party received in the general elections.

5 OPEC ministers meet in Madrid

MADRID (AP) — Oil ministers from five Organisation of Petroleum Exporting (OPEC) states met Sunday for three hours at the Indonesian embassy in emergency sessions seeking ways to stem production and shore up international crude prices. "We heard a long report on the state of the market, which is not very good," said a senior OPEC delegate, who asked not to be further identified. The delegate said the ministers from Algeria, Nigeria, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia were to meet again later Sunday night. The talks, which analysts surmised would produce any dramatic results, take place in the context of a slumping crude market due largely to a spurt in production by members of the 13-member OPEC. OPEC Chairman and Nigerian Oil Minister Riwana Lukman, who is attending the Madrid meeting, said last week in Indonesia the group would take a look at over-production as well as cooperation between OPEC and non-OPEC producers. The five-member price evolution committee cannot make any binding decisions. But it could determine whether the organisation should hold a full meeting before its fall gathering scheduled Nov. 21 in Vienna.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

N. Ireland soldier shot dead

BELFAST (AP) — Gunmen shot and killed a part-time soldier early Sunday in an ambush outside his rural home, police said. Stephen McKimney, 22, was returning home from duty with the Ulster Defence Regiment when he died in a hail of bullets as he walked between his car and his house outside Armagh, 50 kilometres southwest of Belfast, a police spokeswoman said. Police recovered about 30 spent cartridges from the scene, said the spokeswoman. No group claimed responsibility, but the predominantly Protestant regiment, a British army auxiliary unit, is frequently targeted by the mainly Roman Catholic Irish Republican Army.

Israel expects 'low-level ties' with China

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli officials believe China will soon establish low-level diplomatic ties with the Zionist state for the first time since both countries were founded 40 years ago, a newspaper reported Sunday. The daily Yediot Ahronot said the officials based their assessment on messages received lately from the Chinese. Aides of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir declined comment on the report. A foreign ministry official said "everything about China is complicated and sensitive."

Billy Carter dies at 51

PLAINS, Georgia (AP) — Billy Carter, the former "first brother" whose down-home candor and maverick ways enlivened and sometimes embarrassed the administration of President Jimmy Carter, died Sunday morning. He was 51. He had suffered from cancer of the pancreas, the same disease which killed his father and a sister. Carter passed away about 7:30 a.m. (11:30 GMT), according to friends of the Carter family who were contacted Sunday morning. Funeral services are planned for Monday afternoon in Plains.

Bomb explodes on Pakistani bus

PESHAWAR (AP) — A bomb exploded aboard a passenger bus parked at a busy terminal Sunday, injuring 10 people, police said. Police said the bus had just arrived at Peshawar's general bus stand from the central Pakistani city of Multan when the bomb went off next to the driver's seat as passengers were leaving. One passenger was seriously injured, the police said. All but two of the injured were hospitalized. No one claimed responsibility.

No Bhutto in Benazir's baby's name

KARACHI (AP) — The son born to Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will not get one of the famous Bhutto names but that of his father's ancestor. Mother and father announced late Saturday the baby has been named Bilawal Ali Zardari after Asif Ali Zardari's great-grandfather. Family sources earlier said Bhutto's first child, born Sept. 21, might be called Zulfikar, after the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

IPU urges int'l role in Palestine

SOFIA (AP) — The International Parliamentary Union (IPU), concluded a five-day meeting here Sunday and adopted a resolution calling on the United Nations to put the Israeli occupied Arab territories under international supervision, pending the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. The resolution also called for sending a fact-finding team to the occupied territories to investigate the situation there and report to the IPU. The IPU also adopted a resolution calling on all states to respect the national rights of minorities and ethnic groups.

King Fahd meets Arafat

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Jeddah Sunday and had talks with Saudi King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The agency said other high-ranking officials of the PLO and Saudi government also attended the meeting, but it gave no details.

Five killed in Karachi gunbattles

KARACHI (R) — Five people were killed in gunbattles in Karachi Sunday when police swooped to make arrests after an earlier shoot-out between rival video cassette shop owners, doctors and police said. A government statement said troops imposed a curfew in the area and police said one constable was among the dead. Four people were killed Friday in shooting sparked by a quarrel between the video shop owners over the alleged use of immoral films. The latest gunfight broke out when police arrested more than 20 people in connection with Friday's clashes, residents said. Hospital doctors said they had received the bodies of four civilians killed in Sunday's shooting.

Prince Sultan receives W. German defence official

JEDDAH (AP) — Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan conferred Sunday with West German Deputy Defence Minister Lothar Rucht on bilateral relations, the Saudi Press Agency said. It did not elaborate on the talks, but said also present at the meeting was Rucht's Saudi counterpart, Othman Al Hameed. Earlier in the day, the agency reported that Rucht toured the air force academy in Jeddah as well as the King Faisal naval base on the Red Sea. Diplomatic sources said they expected Rucht to discuss the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia, but could not elaborate on what he would propose.

Swede wins Cyprus International Rally

NICOSIA (AP) — Swedish driver Bjorn Waldegard won the Cyprus International Rally Sunday in a four-wheel drive Toyota Celica Turbo. Waldegard, the 1980 world rally champion and his co-driver, Fred Gallagher of Britain, held a commanding lead from the first day of the tough three-day event over narrow twisting gravel mountain tracks for the most part. Italian Fabrizio Tabaton and co-driver L. Tedeschini, driving a Lancia Delta Integrale finished second, a placing sufficient to clinch the European Rally Championship. Tabaton's only rival for the championship, Belgian Patrick Snijers, was forced to withdraw Saturday when his rear-wheel drive BMW M3 suffered a cracked gear box while in fifth place. Welshman David Llewellyn, who won last year's event, and co-driver Piet Short in an Audi Quattro finished third. Waldegard's team-mate, Kenneth Eriksson, also of Sweden, came fourth in another Toyota team Europe Celica.

Likud members resolve internal rift

TEL AVIV (AP) — Seven members of the right-wing Likud party Sunday dropped a supreme court appeal demanding higher placement on the party's list of candidates for parliament, thus resolving an internal rift just weeks before the Nov. 1 national elections. The Likud members demanded cancellation of an agreement granting the 6th and 40th ranking in their party to members of the tiny, independent Rafi-Ometz group, and their replacement by Likud party members. Likud members withdrew their appeal Sunday after succumbing to pressure from party figures, including party leader and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Israeli radio said.

30 Palestinians wounded in Israeli gunfire in 2 days

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops wounded at least 30 Palestinians while dispersing weekend protests against Israel's occupation of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to Israeli and Palestinian sources Sunday.

The fresh violence erupted after the death of 13-year-old Nahel N'uman, a girl shot in the head by a plastic bullet. At least 280 Palestinians have died in the nine-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation.

Four soldiers were charged with manslaughter in the beating of a Jabalya camp resident in Gaza Aug. 22, Israeli Radio said. A military court ordered them held until the end of judicial proceedings.

The most violent weekend clashes in the occupied territories came in Nablus, largest city in the West Bank.

clashed with stone-throwers and six were injured elsewhere.

In the Gaza Strip, troops shot and wounded four Palestinians — one seriously — in clashes in Shati' camp, hospital officials said. Four others were wounded in clashes in Shaboura camp in the border town of Rafah, the officials added.

Eleven Palestinians were wounded in clashes Saturday, including seven in the Gaza Strip and four in the West Bank, hospital officials said.

In the West Bank town of Tulkarem, protesters stoned an Israeli bank branch and the local tax office, Arab reports said. Troops opened fire, wounding two Palestinians, the army said.

Uprising leaders have called on Palestinians not to pay taxes to the occupation authorities and boycott Israeli products as part of a civil disobedience campaign against Israel.

Regent calls for allocating parts of industrial zones as science centres

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday emphasised the need to develop advanced technology-based industries in Jordan and called for allocating parts of new industrial zones as centres for scientific productivity.

The Regent, speaking at a ceremony marking the foundation stone-laying for the Irbid Industrial City, said there was a dire need to employ scientific advances and knowledge in the technical administration of the new industrial city, which lies very close to the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

Addressing students of

education and higher education. The team will be entrusted with coordinating finance and support and streamlining expenditure and specifying scopes of aid, he said.

The Crown Prince called for the formation of a committee for identifying highly qualified people and to move out from the narrow local scope to the wide global scope.

Prince Hassan emphasised the need for providing accurate statistics through a national information centre, and for linking the disciplines of study with what Jordan needs and the requirements of the Jordanian

(Continued on page 5)

Lebanese impasse worsens

BEIRUT (Agencies) — The political impasse in Lebanon worsened Sunday, with Syria rejecting the three-day-old military government and backing the one headed by Salim Al Hoss.

A rocket-propelled grenade hit a west Beirut hotel used as a base by Syrian military intelligence officers Saturday evening, causing a small fire but no casualties, witnesses and police said.

They said the rocket, fired from nearby, slammed into the third floor of the five-storey Bristol Hotel, which also serves as headquarters for pro-Syrian Lebanese politicians.

The explosion set off a fire in one hotel room and shattered windows in others.

The attack coincided with the acute political crisis and was apparently aimed at undermining Syria's military role in Lebanon.

An hour later, a dynamite bomb exploded near a Syrian army checkpoint a block from the hotel, police reported. There were no casualties in either attack.

Firemen quickly put out the fire at the heavily guarded Bristol, where Robert Franjeh, son of Syrian-backed former President Suleiman Franjeh, has been

staying since his father announced his candidacy in Lebanon's abortive presidential election.

An aide said the younger Franjeh had left his fourth floor suite for the family's summer resort of Ehden in North Lebanon hours before the Grenade attack.

No one claimed responsibility for either incident.

Nonetheless, the attacks heightened tensions generated by the emergence of rival governments vying for legitimacy in Lebanon's worst political crisis since independence from France 43 years ago.

The split threatens to formalise the de facto partition of Lebanon into sectarian cantons during the civil war in which more than 150,000 people have been killed.

Syria's Al Thawra daily branded the Christian cabinet of army commander General Michel Aoun a "military coup d'etat against legitimacy."

It added in an editorial: "This government not only constitutes a coup against legitimate state institutions and laws, but it is also a coup against the historic chance to elect a new president and pave the way for national reconciliation and salvation."



His Majesty King Hussein confers with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in London Sunday (Petra wirephoto)

King, Mubarak review Arab situation, efforts for solidarity

LONDON (Agencies) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Sunday received Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his wife Susan who arrived here Saturday on an official visit to Britain.

King Hussein and President Mubarak made a comprehensive review of the Arab situation and discussed means of supporting efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and coordinating their positions in service of the Arab causes. The two leaders also discussed the latest developments of the Palestine question, the peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran and the recent developments in Lebanon, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Mubarak was scheduled to hold talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and

opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock along with other government officials. The Egyptian embassy said the meeting would be for general discussions, with nothing specific on the agenda.

The president flew into Heathrow airport from Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

On Monday the Egyptian leader will hold talks with Thatcher before flying to Paris and Bonn to complete his week-long tour.

Jordan receives \$59.5m Saudi aid

AMMAN (Petra) — The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has transferred \$59.5 million to Jordan as the fourth instalment of Saudi financial support for Jordan for the year 1988, Finance Ministry Secretary General Abdul Majid Qasem said Sunday.

Qasem thanked Saudi Arabia for honouring its commitment, made under the 1979 Baghdad Arab summit, and noted that Saudi Arabia had always been keen on honouring its pan-Arab commitments.

British Tory MP blasts Israeli brutality, arrogance

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The British public views the "Palestinians as the oppressed, (and) Israel is terrorist," according to a senior Conservative Party member of the British parliament and head of the U.K.-Palestinian parliamentary group.

"The British public is being fed on a strong nauseous diet of Israeli atrocities on their television screens for a long period of time," said Tony Marlow, who is here on a visit that includes the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Britain "is committed to Palestinian self-determination, and self-determination means that the Palestinians themselves will decide in the context of the region... but it will remain a Palestinian decision."

The British member of parliament (MP), who headed a three-member delegation made up of Conservative MPs on the visit to Jordan and the occupied territories, had strong words to condemn Israel's often-brutal handling of the ten-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"On the one hand, we saw the results of the handwork of the Israeli defence forces, their brutality, callousness and the arrogance," Marlow said. But these sentiments were in direct contrast to the "high moral and determination of the Palestinian people to achieve (self-determination) for themselves," he said.

According to Marlow, Israel was surprised by the series of regional developments, including

the uprising that began in December, the success of international efforts to bring about a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and Jordan's decision to sever formal ties with the West Bank. "Now, they (Israelis) don't know whether it is Tuesday or Friday," he said.

According to Marlow, Israel

Palestinians in the occupied territories," Marlow said. "I am sure they are damaging their interests both within the occupied territories and outside."

He said Israel was facing great problems. "They have this massive uprising against them, all their young men are deployed in

Britons see "Palestinians as oppressed... Israel as terrorist"

"has no real strategy" towards the Palestinian uprising and that the Zionist state is pursuing a policy of "containment, which is not really succeeding."

"All they are demonstrating, over and over again, is their brutality (and) lack of care for the

uniform trying to do something to contain the uprising, but unsuccessfully. Israel is also facing massive costs in terms of resources, and finally they have the underlying problem that year after year

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Government to waive municipal council bills

AMMAN (Petra) — The council of ministers has decided to write off JD 12,836,006 which have been due for payment by municipal councils for water bills and part of the cost of appropriation lands for 1988 and 1989, according to an official statement issued Sunday.

The statement which followed a cabinet meeting said that a decision has been taken upon directives from His Majesty King Hussein to waive the fees and dues so as to enable the local councils carry out their services to the public in their regions.

The allocated sums, which will be drawn from the treasury, will

cover water bills totalling JD 274,621 due in 1988 and land appropriation costs totalling JD 2,188,500.

The cabinet also decided to make allocations from the 1989 fiscal budget to pay for the interest on loans to the councils due in 1989 and amounting to JD 3,295,704, and an outstanding sum of JD 2,188,500 on previous land appropriations.

The cabinet decided to set up a committee from the ministries of Finance, Municipal and Rural Affairs, Public Works and Housing to calculate the sums to be paid for each council's dues.

World leaders take U.N. podium this week

By Peter James Spielmann
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — World leaders Monday begin three weeks of policy speeches to the U.N. General Assembly, with U.S. President Ronald Reagan, a first-day speaker, expected to hail the world body's peacekeeping successes.

Also speaking Monday are heads of state, premiers or foreign ministers representing 10 other nations, including Brazil, Ghana, Finland, Norway and Singapore.

Reagan's farewell speech to the United Nations comes after nearly eight years during which he has pilloried the body for what he called anti-Western bias and bloated bureaucracy. The Reagan administration drove the United Nations to the brink of closure by withholding U.S. dues, but Reagan had a change of heart this month.

Reagan announced his satisfaction with the U.N.'s progress in trimming its staff and budget Sept. 13, and said America would pay more than a half-billion dollars in back dues to

the United Nations in three to five years.

On Monday (Sept. 19) a General Assembly budget committee reached consensus on a 1990-91 two-year budget of \$1.76 billion, about nine per cent lower than the equivalent 1988-89 budget figure, largely due to a 13 per cent staff cut.

Reagan also called attention to the world body's success in mediating the Afghan accords leading to a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the truce between Iran and Iraq. Other major speakers this

week include Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Tuesday. On Wednesday, the Emir of Kuwait addresses the assembly.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has cancelled his speech scheduled for Wednesday to protest the U.S. State Department's delay in processing about half of the 60 visas for his delegation.

French President Francois Mitterrand and Cameroun President Paul Biya Speak Thursday, and Sierra Leone's

President Joseph Saidu Momoh takes the stand Friday.

When Reagan speaks Monday he will not be talking to the Security Council, the U.N. body that demanded the Iran-Iraq truce, or the U.N. diplomats who patiently put together peace plans for Namibia, the Western Sahara, Afghanistan, and Kampuchea, and encouraged talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.

Reagan will mount the podium to face the 159 delegations of the 43rd General

Assembly, in a hall dominated by developing countries who Tuesday opened their session by electing a new president dedicated to ending "economic injustices."

Dante Caputo, the Argentine foreign minister who will preside over the General Assembly, said Thursday that the "need to start to make progress on the economic injustices that divide us" is as important as consolidating the Afghan accords and the Iran-Iraq truce.

The General Assembly plans to tackle 149 agenda items.

Shamsuddine's works express something of Lebanon's turmoil

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

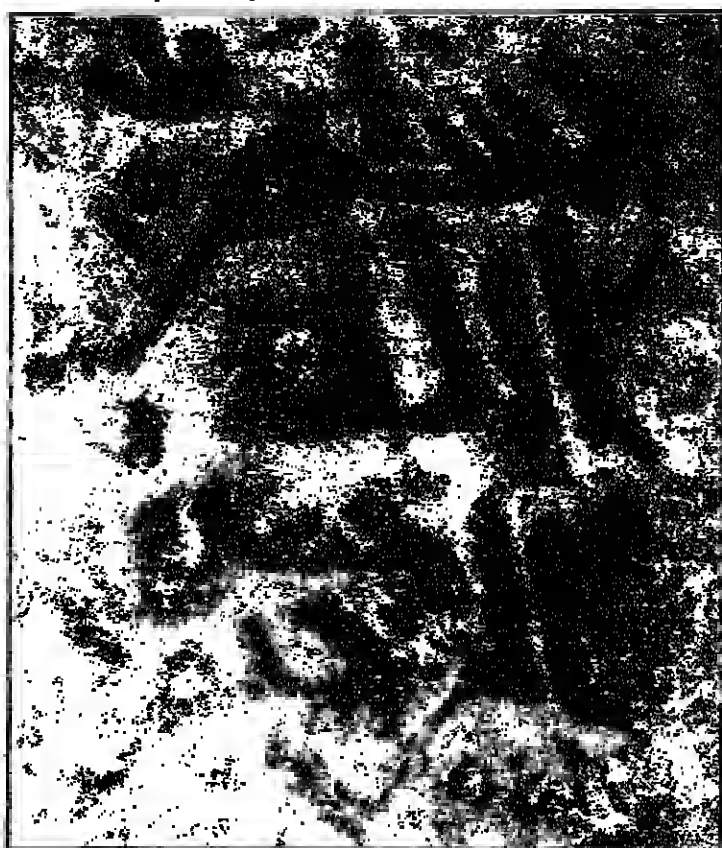
AMMAN — Exhibiting at the Petra Bank Art Gallery this week is a young Lebanese artist, Mohammad Shamsuddine, who many feel is one of the few artists around able to express through his work something of the turmoil his country has endured for the past decade. One of the people to believe very strongly in Shamsuddine's talent is Riyadh Khoury, who was so impressed by his work

that he organised this show here in Amman for the artist.

"I believe," Mr. Khoury told the Jordan Times, "that because Mohammad comes from the heart of the south of Lebanon and because of his highly cosmopolitan training in art schools in both Italy and France we have here a product of the fusion of East and West that depicts the essence of the problems in Lebanon. Shamsuddine's inspiration is one hundred per cent Eastern Islamic, Kufic even, but his interpretation is one hundred per cent Western."

Shamsuddine's oil paintings certainly hold up against Mr. Khoury's assertions for although their subject is lines from the Quran they have been written and depicted in a totally Western way. Emerging out of a soft mire of oozing colours the letters and words appear like cracks in dried mud. In others a single individual letter is celebrated. More brightly coloured it dominates the glowing pastel shades of its surroundings so that one can contemplate its curves and lines as did the ancient mystics.

Shamsuddine also uses calligraphy to his small mixed media abstracts but to a totally different effect. From far, these paintings seem to be unrelentingly dark, their blackness unlike the streets of Beirut where no street lamp, no car headlight, no glow from surrounding houses penetrates the night. When you come closer, they start to come alive.



In the Name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate



Koranic verse

ART REVIEW

Like the shredded posters on the walls of Beirut's crumbling buildings, a rough Hessian texture punctures the large muscling black shapes allowing tiny drops of colour to glimmer through, while etched across their surfaces with the scrawl of street graffiti. Other spidery letters traced in red, blue and green mix with a myriad of tiny lines that dart here and there, defying reason to their anarchical haste.

Every so often, all this chaos suddenly comes to a halt as the eye is drawn to a small hovering square, the motif Eastern mystics believe symbolises the four elements. Complex, intellectual, these abstracts relate, as Mr. Khoury says, "to the actual streets of Beirut and more to the point to the feeling you get when walking down them."

A description that makes Shamsuddine's work seem grim and unappealing, something they are not, for the artist has managed to depict these ideas in a way that helps us to face their reality rather than turn away from them. Through these abstracts he fascinates us, intrigues and often mystifies us capturing our attention so that we can see like him a glimmer of hope.

Finally brighter, lighter, but still uneasy in their general feel are Shamsuddine's pastels on coloured paper. At first these seem more hopeful, less chaotic, but slowly one realises the colours that glow through are as Mr. Khoury says not healthy ones. Verging on the edge of hysteria, these works disturb and agitate the mind. But again they are not unattractive, instead they stimulate, excite, keep us interested and alert. In fact do what art is supposed to do.

The exhibition which opened Sunday runs for one week.



ARMY CHAMPIONSHIP: The Jordanian Armed Forces inspector general Sunday presents the armed forces football championship cup to the commander of the Third Royal Mechanised Division. The 3rd mechanised division won the title

Sunday after defeating the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division 2-1 in a match held on the 3rd division's playground. The inspector general also presented medals to members of the winning team (Petra photo)

U.S. group to protest Israeli brutality

AMMAN (AP) — A group of Americans saying they had been harassed by Israeli authorities will protest to Washington about Israel's "brutality" against Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, group member Bill Doares said Sunday.

"We will protest to the U.S. government to stop its financial contributions and weapons supply to Israel... since it is used in such brutality against Palestinians," Doares told the Associated Press in an interview.

The 33-year-old trade unionist from New York accused the Israeli authorities of "harassing" his six-member group while on a visit to the occupied lands last week at the invitation of the San Francisco-based Palestine Solidarity Committee.

Israeli troops confiscated the Americans' passports in the West Bank town of Ramallah last Sunday, claiming they incited a

Palestinian demonstration.

"We had to struggle with the (Israeli) authorities for one week to get our passports back," Doares said. They were given their passports back Saturday and crossed into Jordan.

Doares said the Israeli authorities insisted that the group had to submit to interrogation, but they refused before having their passports back.

"Why submit to questioning? We did not break the law... We were only observing a demonstration from a distance," Doares said.

He added that though their passports were returned to them Saturday following the intervention of the U.S. State Department, "Israel told the press a lot of lies about us."

He said Israeli media reported that the group had "fled the police station while under detention and therefore the authorities decided to deport us."

Doares added that upon crossing the bridge over the Jordan River to enter the Kingdom of Jordan, "Israeli police told us that we were not welcome to visit there again."

KARAK COOPERATIVE: The Karak Cooperative Department has announced plans to boost animal husbandry in Karak Governorate and produce improved seeds and fodder for the local farmers. The department director said JD 900,000 has been allocated in the 1989 budget to purchase fodder, JD 200,000 to help fatten and market sheep, JD 140,000 as loans to farmers in Qasr, Mazra and Ghor Safi, JD 5,000 to produce improved seeds, and JD 18,000 to support an agricultural machinery programme.

UNESCO holds seminar on Arab demography

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-week regional training seminar on population education opened in Amman Sunday with the participation of delegates representing ministries of education in 12 Arab countries.

The Amman-based regional office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) organised the seminar which will address problems pertaining to population in the Arab World in terms of health and nutrition, according to UNESCO's representative Dr. Abdullah Buba-taneh.

Bubatanah, who opened the meetings, outlined the subjects that will be tackled by the participants and stressed the importance of population education for

citizens in the Arab World and its impact on their families and societies.

"An imbalance between population growth and available resources is bound to create economic, educational and social problems among the citizens," Bubatanah noted.

According to UNESCO officials, the seminar is also designed to project the role of Arab women in development and focus attention on differences between population education programmes in various Arab countries.

Apart from Jordan, delegates attending the meeting came from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, North and South Yemen, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Libya, and Lebanon.



A three-week regional training seminar on population education opens in Amman Sunday (Petra photo)

Jordan, Kuwait to hold talks on afforestation

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian agricultural delegation has left for Kuwait to hold talks on Jordanian-Kuwaiti cooperation in afforestation in highlands and semi-desert regions, and the greening of cities.

The delegation, which is led by the director of the Ministry's Range and Afforestation Department Ghalib Abu Arrabi, will also discuss bilateral cooperation in fishing and agricultural production.

Under an agreement signed here last June Jordan pledged to help Kuwait carry out its programme of greening Kuwait and increasing its forest areas.

Another Jordanian delegation visited Kuwait recently within an agricultural cooperation programme to provide Kuwait with Jordanian expertise in cereal production and irrigation techniques.

This bilateral agreement paves the way also for joint investments in agricultural schemes and joint research projects, as well as cooperation in the production of tree saplings, and seeds and improving new breeds of livestock and the use of veterinary vaccines.

Regional councils review development projects

ZARQA (Petra) — Heads of regional development councils in Zarqa Governorate met here Sunday and discussed working papers which will be submitted to a meeting opening Tuesday in Amman to review development projects in Amman, Balqa and Zarqa Governorates.

The Zarqa Governor chaired the meeting which reviewed the basic needs in the governorate as outlined in the working papers and the problems encountered in the implementation of various development schemes, as well as proposed solutions.

The papers also focus attention on means of developing local councils and the private sector's contributions.

Tuesday's meeting, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will review other working papers by the Amman and Balqa Governorates.

Meawwile on Saturday, mayors and heads of municipal councils and their deputies in Amman, Zarqa, and Balqa Governorates gathered at the University of Jordan for a five-week training course on municipal services.

Administration, financing of municipal projects and improvement of road conditions will be discussed through a number of working papers submitted by the three governorates.

The sessions were opened by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Youssef Hamdan Al Jabir, who commended the training programme as including subjects useful to local councils in all areas.

The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, he said, tries to help the local councils in improving the environment and providing services.

PSD CHIEF RETURNS: Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Majali Sunday returned home from Tunis after taking part in the 13th Arab police commanders and public security directors conference, which concluded Saturday.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-14

PROGRAMME ONE
14:30 Koran
14:50 Programme review
14:55 Seoul Olympic Games
15:00 News summary in Arabic
15:15 Arabic series local
15:20 Local programme
15:30 Programme review
15:45 News in Arabic
15:50 Arabic series
16:00 Programme review
16:10 Seoul Olympic Games
16:15 Just a Minute
16:20 News summary in Arabic
16:30 Monday Forum

PROGRAMME TWO
16:00 Des Chiffres et Des Lettres
16:30 Rue cannot
16:45 News in French
16:50 Weekly Sport magazine
16:55 News in Hebrew
17:00 Bicycle Safety
17:05 News Summary
17:10 Perfect Strangers
17:15 Enemy at the Door
17:20 News in English
17:25 Feature film: "Killer in the Family"

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & purely on 95.0 KHz. SW
Tel: 77111-15

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
08:45 Pop Session Confid.
09:00 Good Vibrations
09:15 Readings
09:30 News Summary
09:45 Pop Session
10:00 Pop Session Confid.
10:15 News Bulletin
10:30 Special Feature
10:45 Concert Hour
10:50 News Summary
11:00 Instrumentals
11:15 Old Favourites
11:30 Young Sound
11:45 Pop Session
11:50 Sports Roundup
12:00 Music
12:15 News Desk
12:30 Date with a Star
12:45 Evening Show
12:50 News Summary

21:05 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Continued
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Continued
24:00 Close Down

WORLDNET

(At the American Cultural Centre)
08:00 America Today
11:00 Newsfile
12:00 Hour USA
13:00 America Today
14:00 Hour USA
15:00 Various of programmes featuring Worldnet dialogues, sports and science reports.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1323 KHz
07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 Sportsworld
07:45 Reflections 07:50 Waveguide
08:00 World News 08:09 News About
08:15 News Summary 08:30 Nature
08:45 Newsdesk 08:55 Recording of the Week
09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Has Socialism a Future? 10:00 World News
10:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
10:30 Every Poem an Epiphany
11:00 World News 11:30 Anything Goes
11:45 Malgudi Days 11:59 British Press Review 12:15 Good Books 12:30
12:45 Sportsworld 12:50 News Summary
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NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

N. YEMEN ANNIVERSARY: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable to North Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh, congratulating him, in his own name and on behalf of Jordan's government and people, on Yemen's Revolution Day. Prince Hassan also wished President Saleh continued good health and happiness and the Yemeni people further progress and prosperity.

SAUDI PRINCE ARRIVES: The governor of the Saudi Arabian region of Tabouk, Prince Fahd bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, Sunday arrived in Amman at the head of a Saudi delegation, beginning a five-day official visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral cooperation. Prince Fahd is accompanied by director general of the border corps, director of public relations in Tabouk region, director of his office and a number of Saudi officials.

ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE: A two-day symposium, organised by the Council of Arab Economic Unity under the theme: "Towards an integrated Arab system for 'Environmental Statistics'" concluded in Amman Sunday after discussing desertification, soil erosion and air and water pollution, in addition to the drain of natural resources.

MEDIA AND MOTHERHOOD: Participants in a regional conference on safe motherhood Sunday discussed a working paper on the role of information and mass media in advancing maternal health, explaining how to utilise mass media and all available communication channels for the exchange of information on maternal health.

PEOPLE'S ARMY: The 6th batch of People's Army recruits in Irbid Governorate Sunday began a 12-week military training programme.

ZARQA BEAUTIFICATION: Zarqa Municipality has allocated JD 75,000 for the beautification and improvement of the city's entrances, according to Zarqa Municipal Committee chairman.

2nd 'march for charity' to be held in Amman

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The second March for Charity kicks off on Oct. 28, with hopes that more money will be raised for the treatment of patients at the society for care of neurological patients at Palestine Hospital and at the Jordanian Cancer Society.

For the second consecutive year, the Society for care of Neurological Patients has decided that the best fundraiser is another charity march.

According to the Director of the Society for care of Neurological Patients, Nadia Alami, last year's charity march across Jordan, from Ramtha to Aqaba, raised JD 50,000.

Unlike last year, this year's charity march will not cover 450 kilometres, but rather 28 kilometres within Amman. The Amman march will be held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, who also plans to participate in the walk.

The reason behind the reduced distance was, "we could not find any men to walk the full distance," said Alami.

Alami said that three females volunteered to walk the distance, but "this year no one was willing to sponsor them plus they got cold feet about sleeping in the countryside."

Also unlike last year, the money raised on Oct. 28 will be for both the patients of the Society for Care of Neurological Patients at Palestine Hospital and the Jordan Cancer Society. Both societies have been coordinating closely for the past couple of years.

"The Jordan Cancer Society asked us for help, and we figured that the best way to raise money would be another sponsored charity march," said Alami.

Already close to 2000 individuals have voiced their readiness to participate in the walk which will take them from the Plaza Hotel to the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth circles, and the Nazik Al Hariri Centre, back down Mecca street to Jubilee Circle and ending back at the Plaza Hotel.

The walk will begin at 9:00 a.m. and is expected to end at around 6:00 p.m. The first walker (runners not included) to complete the distance will win a 1988 panda car.

Petra Bank, the primary sponsor of the charity march, is offering several prizes as well. Plaza Hotel was mentioned by Alami as another important sponsor.

Anyone who wishes to participate can pick up a sponsor form at Palestine Hospital on Oct. 1. No registration fee is required.

Husn-Nu'aimeh road to open for traffic soon

AMMAN (Petra) — The Secretary General of Ministry of Public Works and Housing Sunday said that the road between Al Husn and Nu'aimeh will be opened for traffic within the next few days, and that the road linking Husn with Irbid will be opened within a month.

However, the road linking Irbid with Ajloun will be closed before traffic until Tuesday evening, because of roadworks.

Traffic heading for Ajloun has to use the Ajloun-Ain Jannab road. Traffic heading to Deir Abi Said has to use the Suwayn-Ishafina Road.

In Mafrak, the Public Works Department Sunday offered a JD 84,000 contract for the reconstruction of the ten-kilometre road linking Um Al Outtan with Nayfeh.



Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan Sunday meets with members of a truck owners union in Amman (Petra photo)

Haj Hassan urges truck owners to increase transport of phosphate

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Khaled Al Haj Hassan met Sunday with members of a union of truck owners in the Kingdom and discussed transport operations from Aqaba to Iraq, and other Arab states.

The minister discussed with union members plans for organising truck operations through a unified truck company in Aqaba.

Haj Hassan said that his ministry would do all it can to overcome the difficulties and problems encountered by the union and ease congestion at Aqaba harbour to help organise transport operations.

The minister told the meeting that imports and exports going via Aqaba for Jordan or other Arab countries are of a size more than local Jordanian trucks can handle, which he said, points to a

flourishing business for the transport sector.

The ministry last week announced that a total of 24,000 tonnes of phosphate were transported from the mines in southern Jordan to Aqaba for export on Sept. 7, 1988, representing the largest shipment ever to be transported in a single day.

The development came in the wake of the ministry's new arrangements under which no trucks are allowed to load goods from Aqaba to any destination before first transporting at least one shipment of phosphate to the port for export.

Jordan, U.K. review water projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Cooperation between Jordan and the United Kingdom in water affairs, and Britain's contribution to water projects in Jordan were discussed Sunday by Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhan and British ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve.

Particular attention was given

to an approved £4 million British loan that would finance three important projects in the Kingdom. These include a water survey in Hamad and Serhan in the eastern desert regions, a water study in Disi in the south and the third is a workshop for carrying out maintenance and repair work for machinery used in drilling

artesian wells in the Kingdom.

The minister discussed with the ambassador a programme of training Jordanian technicians in Britain, and benefiting from British expertise in handling water resources and water projects. Water Authority of Jordan (WAS) Director Mu'taz Al Bilbaisi attended the meeting.

RSS to study Tafleeh industries

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) and the Cities and Villages Development Bank (CVDB) Sunday signed an agreement under which the former will conduct a study of the social and economic situation in Tafleeh Governorate, paving the way for setting up small and medium-size industries.

The agreement also provides for the RSS to conduct a survey on the existing traditional, cottage industries prior to introducing measures to encourage expansion, according to the assistant director of the RSS's Economic Research Department Ahmad Al Oasem Ahmad.

He said that the Tafleeh Governorate abounds with agricultural and tourism and other economic potentials which, if exploited, could be of immense benefit to the local population, most of whom live in rural regions.

Ahmad said that according to plans laid down in the 1986-1990 five-year-plan, the Governorate

of Tafleeh was divided into three zones in which development projects would be set up. The new study, however, will be more detailed and will focus more attention on the governorate's potential.

In the course of the study, which will be financed by the CVDB, questions like unemployment and emigration will be probed, and social and demog-

raphic problems investigated, along with health, educational and social services, Ahmad noted.

The RSS study, Ahmad said, will pinpoint projects that will be given priority and help planners and executors of projects alike. According to Ahmad, the RSS will later conduct similar studies of various other governorates in the Kingdom.

Exhibition to open in Mafrak

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — A week-long cultural event will be opened in Mafrak Tuesday by Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri.

Activities include book exhibitions, a display of publications by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and a number of publishing houses as well as a charity bazaar which will be organised by the local women's society.

and a play organised by the Haya Arts Centre.

Hammouri returned from Baghdad Saturday evening after representing Jordan at the Third International Babylon Arts Festival.

Hammouri met with Iraqi Minister of Information and Culture Latif Nasif Jassam to discuss bilateral cultural cooperation.



Some of the drugs seized by the Public Security Department in Jordan during their recent operations (Petra photo)

PSD seizes drugs, smugglers, assists international operations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department's (PSD) anti-narcotics unit has seized 371.5 kilograms of hashish, half a kilo of heroin, 10 drug syringes, and 30 saplings of Indian cannabis in operations carried out against smugglers in the past three months, according to the unit Director Ghalib Al Zoubi.

Zoubi said that in the past three months the police in Jordan had helped security departments in a neighbouring Arab state to bust drug trafficking rings, result-

ing in the seizure of other quantities of drugs.

A total of 51 persons including non-Jordanians were involved in 23 drug trafficking cases, according to Zoubi.

He said that the traffickers followed various methods for smuggling and distributing drugs inside or outside the country, but their attempts ended in failure and to their capture.

Unit officers succeeded in the past few years in busting several drug smuggling attempts in which

professional traffickers from Jordan and foreign countries were involved, Zoubi noted.

Most of the drugs, he said, were being smuggled through Jordanian territory which served as a transit zone for marketing the illicit goods.

Referring to operations in other countries, Zoubi said that his unit had assisted a neighbouring Arab country to seize 300 kilograms of hashish and helped France to seize one kilo of heroin.

RJ to act for Ministry of Tourism worldwide

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism and the national airline Royal Jordanian (RJ) signed an agreement Sunday paving the way for bilateral cooperation in marketing Jordan's tourist and archaeological sites abroad.

The agreement provides for joint plans for facilities in tourism including infrastructure, development, marketing and tourist programmes to attract tourists of all types from different countries.

The ministry and RJ will jointly participate in tourist exhibitions worldwide employing information media and promotion materials.

RJ undertakes to represent the Ministry of Tourism through its offices abroad in matters related to promoting tourism, organising package tours and other related operations.

RJ officials and agents abroad will contact organisations, travel agencies, universities, clubs and other institutions abroad to organise tourist trips and to distribute pamphlets, posters, slides and documentary films related to tourism and help organise seminars featuring touristic attractions in the Kingdom.

RJ will offer free air tickets to Ministry of Tourism officials who take part in joint tourism promotion operations abroad and will employ its own folk troupe to present performances of national songs and dances.

RJ will also fly foreign journalists and tour operators to Jordan

free of charge provided the ministry and local agents make accommodation arrangements for the visitors.

In return, the ministry will provide RJ offices with publications, posters and other promotional materials and will shoulder the cost of participation in tourism promotion exhibitions to be held abroad.

Furthermore, the ministry will offer incentives to tour operators

who help increase the number of visitors to Jordan and will allocate funds for advertisements in the foreign press, promoting Jordan's attractions.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and RJ Executive President Ali Ghandour.

Following the signing ceremony at RJ's head office in Amman, Ajlouni said the agreement ushers in a new phase of fruitful cooperation aimed to market Jordan abroad.

Ghandour said that through its 90 offices around the world RJ will try to project Jordan's bright image and development in social, economic and cultural fields.



Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni and Royal Jordanian Executive President Ali Ghandour Sunday sign an agreement for cooperation in marketing touristic sites (Petra photo)

2 medical conferences to start at RCC Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sixth Jordanian Medical Conference and the first conference by the Arab Union of Dermatologists will open at the Royal Cultural Centre Wednesday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

Nearly 2,000 doctors and specialists from Jordan and countries around the world will take part in the meetings, which will be held under the title of "Doctors in the Service of Humanity," according to Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) President Mamdouh Al Abbadi.

Abbadi said that the three-day Jordanian Medical Conference will review some 100 working papers submitted by famous specialists from the United States, Spain, Greece, Canada, the Soviet Union, Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Palestine and Iraq, in addition to Jordan which will alone offer 62 papers.

A wide range of subjects, from blood diseases to early diagnosis of cancer, will be reviewed in these papers, according to Abbadi.

During the conference seminars will be organised to focus attention on Arabisation of medical teaching, which, according to recommendations by the Arab Doctors Union, should start in the Arab World during this year and will continue for 10 years, Abbadi pointed out.

The health situation in the occupied Arab territories and means of dealing with unemployment among Arab doctors will also be examined by the delegates, Abbadi noted.

A medical exhibition will be organised by a number of major pharmaceutical companies in Jordan and abroad during the conference and delegates will be taken on trips to a number of archaeological sites and development projects in the Kingdom, Abbadi added.

The JMA which is organising the conference next month usually holds similar gatherings biennially, according to Abbadi.

The Arab Union of Dermatologists, in their forthcoming meeting, will focus attention on rare skin diseases which result from the use of chemicals in industries and at homes, according to Dr. Mamdouh Al Qutob, the union's secretary general.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) will be among the topics to be discussed in depth by the coming meeting, Qutob added.

According to the JMA conference's Preparatory Committee Chairman Abdullah Al Bashir, foreign doctors who took part in treating people in Lebanon's refugee camps and the occupied territories have been invited to take part in the meeting. These, he said, will focus attention on the consequences of Israel's use of poisonous gas against the Arab population.

Khayyat, Egyptian minister discuss religious affairs

CAIRO (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat met in Cairo Saturday with Egyptian Minister of Awqaf Mohammad Ali Mahjoub to review bilateral cooperation in religious affairs.

Means of propagating Islam, conferences dealing with religious affairs, exchanges of cultural and Islamic books and publications between Jordan and Egypt were all discussed by the two ministers.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the two ministers discussed an Arab-Islamic Awqaf ministers conference which is due to be held before the end of 1988.

Khayyat earlier attended a meeting by the World Islamic Council and explained Jordan's measures to safeguard religious places including the Al Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Arab territories.

Hindawi announces work on new school buildings

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi announced Sunday that work on school buildings to replace rented ones has started and once completed they will absorb some 509,000 students.

The buildings will help the ministry dispose of the two-shift school sessions and will allow for an annual four per cent increase in the number of students, Hindawi said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The total cost of the new buildings and the land to be appropriated for the projects will amount to JD 202 million, Hindawi added.

The setting up of school buildings was discussed in a working paper that was submitted to last year's national educational conference.

The building projects, which will be financed by the treasury, and foreign loans, are expected to be completed in six years.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Art exhibition: "Contemporary Arab Artists," at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- Art exhibition by Omar Al Basoul, at the Housing Bank Complex.
- "The Individual, Sport and Olympic Games" Book Exhibit, at the American Centre.
- Book exhibition, at the Professional Association Complex.
- Book exhibition, at Al Walaja Cooperative Society, Jabal Nuzha.
- Folkloric exhibition, at the Al Manarah Social Development Society, Al Manarah.
- Photo exhibition entitled "Tourist Tours" to mark the World Tourism Day, at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Shamseddine, at the Petra Bank Gallery.

DEBATE

- The American Centre will receive a broadcast of the first of two debates between U.S. presidential candidates George Bush and Michael Dukakis over the Worldnet television system — 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

LECTURE

- Dr. Genevieve Dollfus gives a lecture on "Tell Abu Hamid Archaeological Site in the Jordan Valley," at the French Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

PUPPET SHOW

- Friends of Children's Club organises a puppet show entitled "Nas Nais," at the FCC Centre, Jabal Luweibdeh.

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FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE
TEL. 637009, 636445
Registration is now open at the French Cultural Centre for the following courses:
— French language courses for adults (all levels)
— Preparation courses for the exams at Sorbonne University (Paris)
— Arabic language courses for foreigners (for beginners)
— Music courses (Piano - Flute - Guitar)
The registration will last on Thursday 29 September and the courses will start on 1 October 1988 till 15 December 1988.
Arts courses for women (Art of flower making, Silk Painting, Ceramics, Painting on glass).
Registration on Monday 26 September at 10.30.
For more information, please contact the library of the centre, telephone 636445.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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Private universities needed

IT took royal intervention to liberalise the university acceptance standards in Jordan, thus ending much unnecessary heartache that had hitherto permeated the whole university qualifications process.

Before the personal intervention of His Majesty King Hussein, upon the recommendation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the policies of Jordan's four universities imposed undue hardships on Jordanian students wishing to pursue higher education within the Kingdom.

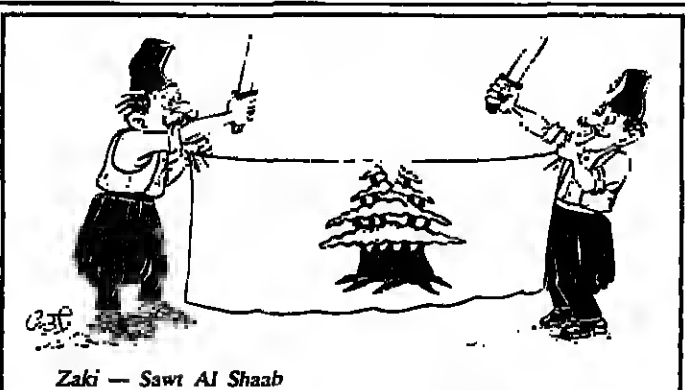
The rigidity of the old regime in the acceptance of Jordanian students reached such a stage that even students who scored 90 in the Tawjihi general examination were prohibited from enrolling at any Jordanian university, let alone choosing fields of study that meet their aptitudes and interests.

We are gratified to note that henceforth all Jordanian students who score 80 or above in the Tawjihi will be assured a seat at one of the Jordanian universities.

Yet this perpetual problem associated with university enrolment in Jordan cannot be permanently resolved until we introduce private universities to the higher educational system in Jordan, to alleviate the unacceptable strain on the existing four state universities. Just as the state of elementary and secondary levels of education in Jordan had to be rescued by the introduction of several private schools to help cope with the growing student population, we believe that the introduction of private universities in our country would serve the same function.

Many parents would naturally prefer to keep their children on Jordanian soil for the first four years of university education at least; and any private expansion of the availability of university education in Jordan would go a long way to answer the prayers of Jordanians, students and parents alike. There are currently 40,000 Jordanian students studying abroad.

Meanwhile, we add our voice to those who have already expressed thanks and appreciation to the royal interest in this matter.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

IN its Sunday editorial Al Ra'i Arabic daily commented on Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's visit Saturday to Baghdad and said that the talks he held with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassio Ramadan were constructive and aimed to enhance solidarity among Arab countries. Rifai's reiteration of Jordan's total support for Iraq and Jordan's pride in Iraqi victories and endeavours to reach peace with Iran reflected the Kingdom's firm and determined stand with regard to the Gulf question, the paper said. Continued consultations between the leadership in Amman and Baghdad are bound to bolster joint action and boost the Arab Nation's stand on the regional and international levels, Al Ra'i asserted.

FOR its part, Al Dustour Arabic daily described Jordanian-Iraqi relations as exemplary and constantly being strengthened in the interest of the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples. The paper referred to Jordan's firm support for Iraq in its eight-year-long war with Iran and said "today Jordan takes a firm stand by sister Iraq in the long and difficult battle for peace. Jordan is also aware of the objectives behind the hostile campaign being waged on Iraq and the allegations being levelled against that country with regard to the question of Kurdish rebels."

Al Shaab Arabic daily also dwelled on Rifai's visit to Baghdad and stressed Jordan's backing for Iraq's endeavours to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598. "There is no doubt that Jordan's support for Iraq as demonstrated by His Majesty King Hussein's stands at regional and international levels, constitutes a model of brotherly solidarity for all Arabs," the editorial said. It added: "Jordan supports Iraq which has been defending the Arab order in the face of Iranian aggression... and continues to support that country's efforts for peace in the face of Iran's procrastinations."

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Health for all

WRITING in Al Dustour daily, columnist Ahmad Al Hisban comments on a conference on maternal health which has opened at the University of Jordan Saturday. The writer refers to Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh's statement in which the minister said that half a million of the world's pregnant mothers die annually for reasons that could be avoided, and that 99 per cent of these mothers live in the Third World. "It is of paramount importance then that the question of healthy motherhood acquire most attention by national authorities and international organisations," the writer adds. "In Jordan, the Ministry of Health has spared no effort in its cooperation with world organisations and in launching organised campaigns through the information media, through lectures and other means to spread awareness among mothers on means of caring for themselves and their children," Hisban points out. He expresses confidence that "through its continued endeavours, the Kingdom is bound to attain the World Health Organisation's goal of 'health for all by the year 2000'."

Making a legal point

By Waleed Sadi

AMMAN'S 31st of July political decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank was fortunately, unqualified by the adjective "all." We lawyers and jurists normally have a field day with such subtraction of words in the proclamation of major political decisions.

To be sure from a strictly legal point of view, the absence of this word in the text announcing the breaking of "legal and administrative" relations with the West Bank and its people does not negate, IPSO facto, the proposition that ALL legal and administrative ties were contemplated and intended in the decision of July 31. Yet the debate on how to legally construct the absence of the word "all" before the words "legal and administrative ties" could continue if one chooses to be legalistic about the full dimensions and scope of the decision.

This debate could assume an added meaning in the wake of the deliberate decision to exclude the Islamic institutions from the purview of the decision of severance. Indeed the continuance of granting Jordanian passports to the Palestinians of the West Bank even though for shorter validity could be also interpreted as added evidence that not "all" legal and administrative ties were projected to be severed at this stage.

But this is not all. As Jordan is busily engaged now in the process of rectifying and amending its laws and regulations in order to reflect more faithfully what is essentially a political declaration, a legal point or two are in order: first of all, we must recall that to give full effect to the political proclamation severing legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, we must translate that

decision into legal manifestations as indeed we are now in the process of doing.

But in doing so, we may not resort to "regulation" to amend existing laws. The cardinal principle of law is that laws supercede regulations and if any regulation gets adjudicated as repugnant to the constitution or laws of Jordan it will be struck down in a court of law. Moreover, amended laws cannot enjoy retroactive effect. Again this is a well established principle of law in practically all the jurisdictions that I know of, including Jordan's. Therefore we have to be careful with the legal implications of the efforts to affect changes in our laws and accord them retroactive effect.

A case in point could be the citizenship laws. If a person acquires Jordanian citizenship in accordance with existing laws, he or she may not be denied that acquired right by introducing amendments to that law. Amendments to this and other similar laws are applicable to new cases and situations and not to old acquired rights and privileges. This is on the domestic scene.

On the international level the legal problems associated with the Jordanian decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank and its people are also formidable. I presume that our legal experts are aware of the need to take measures to give full credit to this decision internationally. Practically all of our treaty obligations are affected by this decision and all of them await rectifications according to the international due process.

One particular bilateral agreement that needs addressing is the 1949 Jordanian-Israeli Armistice Agreement. Surely our interna-

tional experts know that that agreement which was endorsed by the United Nations cannot be abrogated or amended or declared null and void by any unilateral action by any of the parties concerned. It just happens that that accord is still valid and operative legally irrespective of the 31 July decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

It will be recalled in this context that the elementary articles of that agreement prescribe that the armistice lines existing between Jordan and Israel cannot be altered except with the consent of the two parties, i.e., Israel and Jordan. The ceasefire lines that are observed now by both belligerent countries came in the aftermath of the 1967 war and at no time did any side argue, legally that is, that the ceasefire lines supercede the armistice lines. I would like to invite the attention of our authorities to this and other points that await resolution.

In modern nation-states, where every measure or policy must be reflected in a sound legal formulation, it is necessary to examine the full and complete legal implications of any measure or policy. I feel certain that our concerned authorities are fully aware that the legal implications, domestic as well as international, of the historic decision which enunciated the breaking of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank and its people are infinite. The process of completing the legal homework of such a large step is clearly a nightmare for jurists. But it has to be done. Otherwise the docks of the courts in Jordan would become saturated with contentious legal issues arising from the political decision.

'Jordanian constitution has highest regard to human rights'

The following are major excerpts from an address made by Senator Ahmad Tarawneh to the current International Parliamentarian Union conference held in Sofia, Bulgaria.

JORDAN — as stated by its leader His Majesty King Hussein — adopted a slogan which it righteously regarded as a precious component of its values and priorities: That is "The Human Being Is Our Most Valuable Asset." This slogan has been in application — by word and deed — in the various aspects of life: Political, economical, legal, legislative, educational and health not to mention whatever bolsters the dignity, pride and the well-being of individuals. This policy is the practical outcome of the principles contained in the 1952 Constitution and the various amendments thereto that aim at bringing it into line with developments in the concepts of human rights in order for them to be a fact of life that enriches humans and humanity in a society of freedom, sufficiency and justice.

In this respect I will use some of your precious time to quote portions of Chapter II of the Constitution of Jordan tackling the question of human rights as related to the duties and rights of Jordanians:

Article 6 provides:
(1) Jordanians shall be equal before the law. There shall be discrimination between them as regards their rights and duties on grounds of race, language or religion.

(2) The government shall ensure work and education within the limits of its possibilities, and it shall ensure a state of tranquility and equal opportunities to all Jordanians.

On freedom, the Constitution provides:
"Personal freedom shall be guaranteed. No person may be detained or imprisoned except in accordance with the provisions of the law."

"No Jordanian may be deported from the territory of the Kingdom."

"No Jordanian may be prevented from residing at any place, or be compelled to reside in any specified place, except in the circumstances prescribed by law."

"Dwelling houses shall be inviolable and shall not be entered except in the circumstances and in the manner prescribed by law."

"No property of any person may be expropriated except for purposes of public utility and in consideration of a just compensation, as may be prescribed by law."

"No loans may be forcibly imposed and no property, movable or immovable, may be confiscated except in accordance with the law."

"Compulsory labour may not be imposed on any person, but any person may be required to do any work or to render any service in circumstances prescribed by law."

Article 14 of the Constitution provides:
"The State shall safeguard the free exercise of all forms of worship and religious rites in accordance with the customs observed."

Article 15 of the Constitution provides:
"The State shall guarantee freedom of opinion. Every Jordanian shall be free to express his opinion by speech, in writing, or by means of photographic representation and other forms of expression, provided that such does not violate the law."

Article 16 provides:
"Jordanians shall have the

right to hold meetings and are entitled to establish societies and political parties provided that the objects of such societies and parties are lawful, their methods peaceful, and their bi-laws not contrary to the provisions of the Constitution."

What I have just quoted as examples of the principles of human rights provided for in the Constitution of Jordan are not mere fine and idealistic phrases; they are principles that have been put into effect and application in laws, institutions and daily activities endorsed by Jordan's House of Representatives over the last decades the maintenance of which has been guaranteed by the judicial authority which is independent from both the legislative and executive authorities.

Thus with all pride I note that the international human rights committees have never summoned Jordan to stand before them to defend any violations of human rights.

As such it is quite normal for Jordan and our House of Representatives to be fully and continuously prepared to develop international cooperation in the humanitarian field and to bring national legislation into line with international human rights norms, principles and instruments.

I may go even further to note to this conference that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan took the initiative in 1981, 1982 and the following years to submit to the U.N. an ambitious framework which was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly to establish a new international humanitarian order. It is regarded as an advanced step in the field of human rights and human communities. It embodies the establishment of the bases for dealing with various catastrophes and tragedies befalling human societies as a result of natural causes or otherwise, which exceed the capabilities of any individual society.

I am aware that each country has its own circumstances when drafting a legislation; however, there are general legislations that are governed by international criteria and joint interests amongst groups of countries which relate to the existence of human beings and their dignity and right to a decent life free from illness, hunger and illiteracy.

Journalists and newspaper proprietors were united against the bill and boycotted all briefings and news conferences by Gandhi's ministers unless they took a stand against it.

The climbdown by the government was due to extraordinary exertion of public opinion," said opposition parliamentarian P. Upendra.

"He doesn't want to give a campaign point to the opposition and he also doesn't want a hostile press in an election year," he added.

Gandhi, who will be seeking re-election before the end of next year, has had an uncomfortable relationship with the media in the past 20 months.

Newspapers have paid unwilling attention to alleged kick-

'Intifada sends the world a message'

By Jim Shevits

WASHINGTON — The nine-month-old Palestinian uprising, or "intifada," to Israeli-occupied territories is "sending a message to the world" that "we are going to be free," Muharak Awad, founder of the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Centre for the Study of Nonviolence, said in a Sept. 19 speech here.

The word "intifada" means "shaking," said Awad, a Palestinian Christian and a naturalised American citizen, adding the movement has already succeeded in shaking Israeli authorities to the point where they seem ready to compromise.

At both the beginning and end of his Georgetown University address to a largely student audience of 200, Awad stressed that the Palestinians' ultimate goal is a separate state of their own.

"We need our own state, we need to govern ourselves, we need our own national anthem and our own flag," he said.

So far, the Israeli government has been unwilling to share power in the occupied territories with the Palestinians, he said, but there are peace groups in Israel that are coming around to that point of view.

"There is a lot of hope here," he said.

Awad has posed a problem for the Israeli authorities ever since he opened his Palestinian Centre for the Study of Nonviolence in Jerusalem three years ago. The Israeli government finally deported him for his activities in behalf of the Palestinian Arabs.

The deportation — on grounds his tourist visa had expired — drew protests from the U.S. State Department and thousands of letters of sympathy.

The Israelis "found it difficult to deal with a man and a movement evoking memories of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.," said Professor Hisham Sharabi of the Georgetown University Centre for Contemporary Arab Studies, who introduced Awad.

The Centre for the Study of Nonviolence, which is still active, emphasises the use of civil disobedience and nonviolence advocated by Indian political and spiritual leader Mohandas Gandhi to secure India's independence from British colonial rule in 1947, said Awad. Gandhi's concepts also were espoused and implemented by King to halt segregation in the United States.

"We found that Arabs over-invented weapons. They got them from other countries, Awad said. "So, if they didn't invent weapons, why then could they not employ the techniques of civil disobedience and nonviolence?"

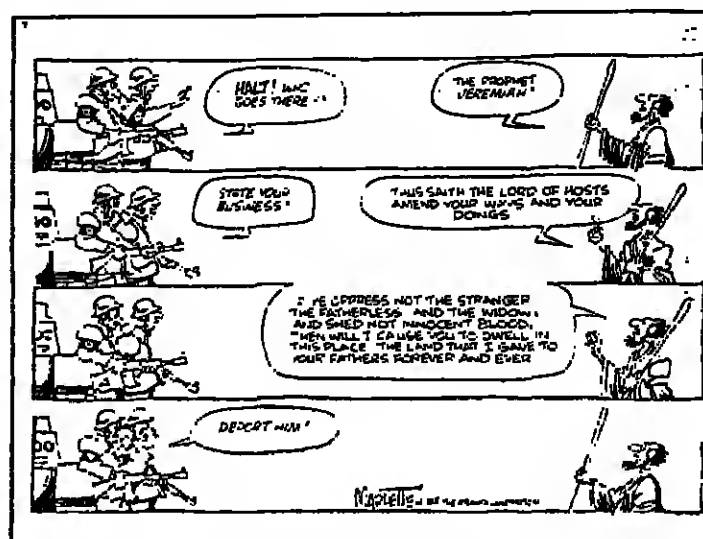
Islam and Christianity are similar in that both embrace nonviolence, he noted. It was only when

Christianity became institutionalised that it turned to war, he said.

Awad acknowledged he is and always has been a supporter of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), but does not necessarily agree with everything the PLO stands for. He stressed that Palestinian Arabs are not out to defeat the Israelis militarily. "Nonviolence and civil disobedience is to look the Israelis in the eye... to meet with them and to speak with them," he said. "As Palestinians, we have no justice under any kind of Israeli law," Awad added.

The purpose of nonviolence within the context of the Palestinian problem is to make Israeli occupation of Arab territories expensive, Awad said. Embracing Gandhian concepts, the spirit of the intifada has unified and strengthened the Palestinians as never before, he said.

"The idea of spirituality with the intifada means there is a deep



commitment within the Palestinian people," he said. "This has never happened before. This is what I call empowerment."

Answering questions on

Palestinian concerns, Awad was highly critical of U.S. diplomacy and the influence of the Israeli lobby on U.S. foreign policy — USIA.

Before it is too late

By Anthony Lewis

IN Jerusalem last June several dozen Israeli and Palestinian writers, artists and academics signed a symbolic peace treaty. It called for peace between Israel and a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, each respecting the other's need for security.

One of the Palestinian signers was Tayseer Aruri, a professor of physics and mathematics at Birzeit University in the West Bank. On Aug. 8, Israeli police arrested Professor Aruri. On Aug. 17, the Defence Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, ordered him deported.

Over the last month, in prison, Professor Aruri has been trying to save himself the prospect of exile and separation from his family. But like other Palestinians marked for deportation in recent years, he has only limited opportunities to defend himself against that drastic punishment.

To appeal against deportation, Aruri first had to go to a military committee of three officers. The committee is only advisory. They make recommendations to the military commander, and seldom if ever have they recommended against a deportation.

Moreover, the crucial evidence considered by the committee is unknown to the person ordered deported. In Aruri's case he and his lawyer (but not his family or the press) were first allowed into the committee hearing. But after a time they were excluded and, for four hours, the officers heard intelligence reports in secret.

The military prosecutor informed Professor Aruri at first of certain broad charges — but not the evidence behind them. He

was told that he is "a well-known activist in the Palestinian Communist Party" and is known "for disturbing the public order." He denies those accusations, but it is hard for his lawyer to dispute them when he does not know who the accusers are and cannot cross-examine them.

In committee proceedings some more detailed accusations were disclosed to Professor Aruri. They included matters of so little weight that it is hard to believe they could be considered relevant.

For example, it was said that in 1984 Professor Aruri spoke at a memorial service for a professor who had died of cancer. He said then that his colleague had died "still loving his earth and his people." No doubt that was a reminder of Palestinians' feeling for their birthplace. But how could it be criminal, much less ground for deportation?

Professor Aruri's lawyer, Awad Boulos, said to me: "I'm struggling against shadows. Professor Aruri signed the peace declaration. If a man who gives two hands for peace is deported, tell us why. If such people are exiled, those who don't want peace will have triumphed."

If the deportation order is upheld by the military committee and the commander, Boulos can take Professor Aruri's case to the high court. But there again he will run into the daunting problem of secret charges and inability to examine the evidence.

Military prosecutors regularly ask the high court to consider secret evidence in deportation cases, and the court does so. Boulos will challenge that prac-

tice. But the Israeli supreme court has almost always yielded to claims of military necessity in the occupied territories — and refused to interfere with deportations.

From a distance, one cannot know all the facts about Tayseer Aruri. But one can know that the deportation proceeding against is a mockery of justice. If he has committed a crime he should be prosecuted in open court, or open evidence. In any event, the Geneva Convention explicitly bars casting him out of his birthplace. Professor Aruri is not alone in trying to stave off, without due process, what justice brands called the loss of "all that makes life worth living": Exile from one's native land. Deportation orders are pending against 25 Palestinians. Since last December, 33 others have been deported.

The Reagan administration criticised the latest round of deportation orders in strong terms, as violations of international law. They are that. But more important, they are violations of the most fundamental sense of fairness in societies that live by rule of law.

The growing number of deportations — without real evidence or witnesses — casts an even darker shadow on the future. It eases the way, psychologically, for a far more terrible policy: Mass expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories. The idea of a "transfer of population," as it is euphemistically called, was once unthinkable but is now freely discussed in Israel — The New York Times.

Indian press deals Gandhi another blow

By Rajendra Bajpai
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, reeling from a string of electoral setbacks and severe damage to his "Mr. Clean" image, has taken yet another bodyblow — at hands of the Indian press.

The 44-year-old leader Thursday announced he was dropping a defamation bill which had provoked opposition of a ferocity unprecedented even by the untrained standards of India's boisterous press.

His decision not to pursue the bill, which newspapers saw as a bid to kill investigative journalism, came as abruptly as his action last month in rushing it through the lower house of parliament without public debate

or discussion in his own party. Journalists and newspaper proprietors were united against the bill and boycotted all briefings and news conferences by Gandhi's ministers unless they took a stand against it.

The climbdown by the government was due to extraordinary exertion of public opinion," said opposition parliamentarian P. Upendra.

"He doesn't want to give a campaign point to the opposition and he also doesn't want a hostile press in an election year," he added.

Gandhi, who will be seeking re-election before the end of next year, has had an uncomfortable relationship with the media in the past 20 months.

Newspapers have paid unwilling attention to alleged kick-

backs in defence deals which the opposition have used as a club to beat Gandhi with in election campaigns.

The ruling Congress (I) Party has lost a string of state assembly elections in the north and south since last year and his own vote-capturing image as "Mr. Clean" of Indian politics is in a shambles.

Opposition from within

He has also had to contend with opposition from within his own party. Congress members privately complain that Gandhi is inaccessible to most of them and that free debates no longer take place within the party.

K.P. Unnikrishnan, an opposition MP, said the bill had done

Gandhi serious damage with political parties, civil liberties groups and others joining in denouncing him.

"I don't think it will make much difference now that he has withdrawn the bill. The damage has already been done," he said.

Among the bill's most controversial elements was a clause which would have forced defendants in libel cases to prove their innocence, reversing the principle of India law which puts the burden of proof on the prosecution.

It also sought to considerably widen the definition of defamation and provided stiff jail terms for offenders.

Congress Party members were relieved when Gandhi decided to let the bill drop.

Murali Bhandare, an upper house Congress member, said of

Gandhi's decision: "It is a welcome step. In a democracy any prime minister who heeds public opinion, goes up in (esteem)."

The generally pro-government Hindustan Times said in a front-page editorial the bill was a clear assault on the freedom of the press.

"In one way, the decision can be seen as a victory for the press which because of justified fear and in a rare display of unity, mounted a campaign against what was patently an obnoxious measure," it said.

The Indian Express, an anti-Gandhi newspaper, said: "The moralised, buffeted by one act of high-handedness after another, helpless in the face of rulers who have hijacked the country, the people have need of a victory. They have got one."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

'Israeli developing high-speed satellite'

LONDON (AP) — Israel is developing a reconnaissance satellite to be launched at short notice in times of crisis and capable of transmitting pictures of an enemy's troop movements and weapons systems, the Sunday Times of London reported. The newspaper said the Ofek-1 satellite that Israel launched last week is the prototype of the new system and "once perfected, more satellites will be prepared for launching at the first sign of tension in the Middle East." It said the United States helped to produce the three-stage solid fuel propulsion system of the launch rocket, known as Savit, and is expected to develop a similar system for itself if the Israeli test is successful. The newspaper, quoting unidentified military sources in Israel, said the Ofek-1 is designed to be launched "with minimal notice and to orbit at low altitude for about a month." The Ofek-1 would circle over Arab countries every 90 minutes, spying on troops movements and weapons systems and transmitting live pictures direct to Israeli army commanders, it said. "If a war or period of tension lasted longer than a month, another satellite would be launched," the newspaper said.

Hart meets with Tareq Aziz

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Former United States senator Gary Hart conferred Sunday with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz, Baghdad Radio reported. The radio gave no details of the meeting. The official Iraqi News Agency reported Hart had earlier conferred with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saadoun Hamadi. The agency said Hamadi referred during the Saturday meeting to "the current Israeli incited anti-Iraq campaign by the United States Senate." This was a reference to a Senate decision to impose sanctions on Iraq for alleged use of poison gas against Kurdish rebels. INA said

Hamadi pointed out to Hart that the Senate "has no evidence whatsoever to prove the alleged use of chemical weapons by Iraq against Kurds." The Senate move has resulted in marked deterioration of the previous close relations between the two countries.

Freed Kuwaiti thanks British police

NORTHAMPTON, England (AP) — A kidnapped Kuwaiti millionaire, rescued by police after a four-day ordeal, said Saturday that he had thought he was going to die and owed his life to the local police force. "Thank you is just a small word," said 38-year-old businessman Walid Al Humaidh. "But to me, today, it has a world of meaning." Scotland Yard and Northamptonshire police, acting on a tip, freed Humaidh Friday night from a north London house and said they were questioning two Belgians, a 41-year-old woman and a 31-year-old man, at police stations in Northampton.

Israeli, Czechoslovak ministers to meet

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Czechoslovak counterpart Bohuslav Choupek this week will hold the first open talks between their two states in 21 years, the Israeli foreign minister said Sunday. "The meeting will be in New York where both men will be for the United Nations General Assembly and it will probably take place Tuesday," a spokesman told reporters. Peres said last week he believed Czechoslovakia would follow other East European states and renew limited diplomatic ties with Israel, severed over the 1967 Middle East war. Czechoslovakia, together with all other East bloc states except Romania, broke ties with Israel during the war. Both Poland and Hungary renewed low-level official ties with Israel over the past year and there have also been consular or other contacts with the Soviet Union and Bulgaria.

U.S. congressman urges next administration to accord priority to the Middle East

By Joanne L. Nix

WASHINGTON — Lee Hamilton, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, has recommended that the United States advance the cause of Middle East peace through "continued leadership and negotiation" but warned that "American policy can not and should not be a substitute for what the parties themselves must do."

Hamilton was the keynote speaker at the annual conference of the Middle East Institute Sept. 23.

"Our hope is that we can keep the parties and their energies focused on peace," he told more than 600 registered delegates including government officials, professors, foreign dignitaries, journalists, business executives, students and others from across the United States. Hamilton stressed that with the help of President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz "peace-making

is the role the United States is uniquely placed to perform."

Hamilton stressed that America's foreign policy in the Middle East has bipartisan support but "must be sustained to succeed. It demands creativity, energy, and financial resources," he said, and added that in Middle East negotiations "things move forward or they get worse."

The 23-year veteran of the U.S. Congress said that not very much can be predicted with certainty about future events in the Middle East. He urged that the area be made a priority on the next administration's agenda, but cautioned "We must build on the basic elements of our past policies."

Hamilton called for the immediate implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 as Iran and Iraq struggle to reach a settlement. He stressed, however, that the U.S. should maintain its neutral policies between Iran and Iraq in order to deal with difficult issues without damaging fragile ties.

He called for a reduction of American military presence while maintaining "close and effective ties" with the Gulf states. "As normalcy returns to the Gulf our presence should go back to what it was before this crisis," he said.

Hamilton also suggested that the Gulf states should be encouraged to develop military capability and strengthen coastal surveillance.

He described the situation in the occupied territories since Jordan's July departure from the scene as "unclear" and called for a long transition period in the West Bank and Gaza. He called for political reform in Lebanon and the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

This year's three-day Middle East Institute conference centres on assessing the Reagan administration's record in the Middle East and will highlight the challenges that the next administration will face in the region.

Topics include — the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the prospects for advancing the peace process;

— post-Zia political manoeuvring in Pakistan;

— U.S. interests in Afghanistan in the wake of the Soviet withdrawal;

— energy policy, commercial opportunities and the growing trade in arms;

— the turbulent Gulf and U.S. policy options toward post-Khomeini Iran;

— and the prospects for U.S.-Soviet cooperation in resolving the Middle East's many conflicts.

Former Maryland Senator Charles McMathias, Jr. was scheduled to deliver the banquet address the evening of Sept. 23. Other speakers and panelists include Lucius D. Battle of the Middle East Institute, Mubarak E. Awad of the Palestinian Centre for the Study of Nonviolence, Dorothy Robins-Mowry of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars and Robert G. Newmann from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies — USIA.

Mahdi: Outsiders pressuring Sudan to abolish Islamic laws

By Mohammad Osman
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi has spoke of foreign pressure on his country to abolish its Islamic legal code, an issue so sensitive that non-Muslim members are boycotting parliament.

Speaking in a radio interview Saturday shortly before leaving to visit North Yemen and South Yemen, Al Mahdi defended Islamic laws and said the pressure from Arab and non-Arab countries could backfire.

"The intervention of these sides will provoke us more and more," Al Mahdi said. "The foreign pressure is unacceptable and may lead to opposite results."

He did not specify the countries that allegedly have interfered in consideration by the constituent assembly, Sudan's parliament, of a substitute set of laws to replace ones on the books for five years. They have not been enforced either under military rulers who took power in 1985 or under Al Mahdi's government, elected a year later.

The code put before the assembly last Monday suggests that Islamic law, including its criminal punishment section that sets stern punishments like stoning adulterers to death and amputating thieves' limbs, be applied both to Muslims and non-Muslims in regions where most people are Muslims. Areas with a Christian and animist majority, mainly in southern Sudan, would be exempted from the laws.

Southern Sudanese parliamentarians walked out of the assembly Monday, when the substitute laws were presented for debate. Even members of Al Mahdi's own Umma Party and the second-largest party, the Democratic Unionists, have expressed opposition to the prop-

osals. In the week's two ensuing parliamentary sessions, only 40 to 45 of the 264 members attended.

Not by force

Al Mahdi said in the radio interview that there was no question of "forcing (non-Muslims) to quit their religion, but there is equally no room for forcing Muslims to abandon their religion."

He said the criminal punishments, which raised a furor in many countries concerned over human rights when former President Jaafar Numeiri invoked them in September 1983, were only eight out of 188 articles in the proposed bill.

"These laws do not violate the human rights or citizenship rights of any Sudanese, despite the severe punishment for some crimes," he said. "We believe in democracy, and these laws, if passed, will be through democratic channels."

Numeiri, a pro-Western strongman whose administration has been charged with rampant corruption since his overthrow, made all Sudanese subject to the 1983 code, exacerbating a civil war already under way in the south.

Seen by some as an effort by an embattled president to gain support from powerful fundamentalists, many said the laws interpreted the tenets of Islam incor-

rectly.

Committee set

The constituent assembly has set up a nine-member committee chaired by the speaker, Mohammad Youssef Mohammad, to organise a presentation by other parties of alternatives to the substitute laws. The committee's mandate also is to determine whether discussion of the substitute laws should be suspended until after the upcoming autumn recess or should be withdrawn altogether.

"All (other) proposed criminal code bills should be discussed on an equal footing with the present one of the National Islamic Front," said Al Zein Hamid, a senior Democratic Unionist.

The front, which drafted the substitute legal code, is a partner in Al Mahdi's coalition with the prime minister's Umma and the Democratic Unionists, both centrist parties. The controversy over the laws, which are called "The 1988 Islamic Laws of Criminal Procedures," has shaken the fragile coalition.

Meantime, newspapers have reported other forms of foreign pressure in behalf of the substitute laws.

The bi-weekly Al Dawaa said that a "non-Arab Islamic country" had paid large amounts of money to some political parties to ensure that parliament passes the substitute legal code. It did not identify the parties or the state.

Another report, in the daily Al Syassa, claimed that unidentified foreign powers are pressuring Sudan to pass the laws so as to inflame the civil war in the south and keep the Arab countries weak. The paper said:

"Big powers have chosen Sudan as a substitute for draining the Arab money and energy, after the success of Iraq in imposing peace in the Gulf."

25 die every day in Malakal

KHARTOUM (R) — Rain has lashed Malakal for two months, no food has arrived for seven months and at least 25 people starve to death every day in the town in southern Sudan.

The little food left is selling at prices beyond the reach of most of the impoverished residents.

This account of the plight of Malakal was given on Sunday by the governor of Upper Nile Province, Ret Chok Jok, who had just returned to Khartoum from the town 700 kilometres to the south. "It rained virtually continuously throughout the two months I have been there," he told Reuters. "Almost 90 per cent of the crops grown in and around Malakal have been destroyed."

Jok said entire sections of the town were deserted as residents fled for shelter. Torrents of water had damaged many homes and almost all schools and clinics.

His account was the first since a member of Sudan's Presidential Supreme Council reported 350 people died of starvation during a one-week visit earlier this month.

The situation is a microcosm of disaster spreading through several southern towns cut off from the food supplies which the world has poured into Sudan to help fight the worst floods and famine this century in Africa's biggest and poorest country.

The hungry towns are isolated by rain, floods and civil war. Relief workers and refugees say scores, perhaps hundreds, of people are dying of hunger across the south daily.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has renewed a long-standing threat — which it has carried out in the past — to shoot down any aircraft flying south without permission.

The fighting has forced at least three million southern Sudanese out of their homes in search of food and safety in northern Sudan, Ethiopia or Uganda.

Lebanese group hopes hot soup will ease conflict

By Maurice Kaldawy
Reuters

BEIRUT — Fighting Kalashnikov rifles with soup spoons, a group of Lebanese volunteers have started a chain of "friendship restaurants" where they hope the country's bitter conflicts will dissolve over the first course.

"It is amity, not politics or military might, that unites people," said former Lebanese President Charles Helou, now chairman of the Association of the Friends of Amity Restaurants (AFAR).

"I am not 100 per cent sure we will succeed in our endeavour, but we have to try and turn the restaurants into solidarity centres," said Helou.

The restaurants provide free meals for up to 500 underprivileged people a day. There are no paying customers.

Helou and his 14 co-members of the association, recently granted charity status by the government, are pledged under the AFAR charter to "work for the development of the spirit of solidarity between hosts and guests."

AFAR's 18 restaurants — facilities made available to the asso-

ciation free of rental and located mostly in basements of schools — are dotted throughout the Muslim and Christian sectors of Beirut as well as the northern port of Tripoli.

AFAR has bought the necessary rudimentary tables and cooking utensils. The cost of meals is met through financial contributions mainly from wealthy private donors. Also, aid-in-kind is offered by charitable organisations.

The association hopes that by chatting over a wholesome meal, Lebanese of different sects and allegiances will learn to trust each other and put aside the weapons with which they have waged 13 years of civil war.

Five-years old

The 15 AFAR members pay an annual subscription and meet the full costs of at least one meal a year each in one of the association's restaurants.

They often eat in the restaurants themselves, bringing friends and family. Other benefactors donate food. One dental technician gave 300 hamburgers and a Beirut baker sends 600 loaves of bread a

month.

The original Friendship Restaurant was established five years ago in a school basement in a densely populated area of Christian east Beirut to meet the needs of a growing number of people made destitute by civil war.

A placard near the school entrance reads *ahlan wa sahlan* (you're welcome) restaurant and directs guests to a string of tables and stools where free hot meals are offered several times a week.

Both old and young are welcome to have lunch served by 10 women volunteers. Sometimes they are joined by visitors such as foreign ambassadors, cabinet ministers and their wives.

"We plan to establish similar schemes in different regions of Lebanon, in various towns and villages where necessary," said social worker Antoinette Kazan, who is the association's secretary general.

"The purpose is to enable all Lebanese to cooperate with one another and help re-unite the country," she said.

Kazan said AFAR also provided medical care and fresh air recreation. Contributions have been re-

ceived from far and wide.

Two young Lebanese brothers in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, had sent \$125 that would have been spent on their birthday party, Kazan said.

Two other Lebanese children living in Ecuador give \$2,000 a year, and a 12-year-old boy in Boston sent a \$25 banknote to his "brothers" in Lebanon.

A French journalist, who visited one of the restaurants with his fiancée, gave a cocktail party for 800 men, women and children to celebrate his marriage.

Recent diners at one of the association's restaurants, "Smile-One" there is also "Smile-Two" — included Basma, a 78-year-old widower from South Lebanon, and George, a 35-year-old sugar plant worker.

Basma said she had to abandon her village home because of fighting there, "but I had nowhere to go other than a shelter near the green line where I now live."

George, who earns 3,500 pounds (about \$10) a month, said he lived with his aged mother nearby.

"We are frequent guests at smile-one... I hope similar schemes will cover the whole of Lebanon," he said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Regent calls for science centres at industrial zones

(Continued from page one)

job market. Unemployment, the Regent said, "is behavioural because many of the graduates do not accept the available jobs, be they in the field or in areas far from their places of domicile."

Prince Hassan said "the educational process should be

accompanied by a social education process."

The Regent pointed out that the military service represents a community service because conscripts could acquire new skills and capabilities which reflect positively on the labour market.

The Crown Prince later chaired a meeting with the president and deans of the various

university faculties and stressed the need for coordination among the various faculties and among the various departments within the same faculty. He called for introducing new disciplines to distinguish JUST from other Jordanian universities and to enable it to play a distinguished role.

Prince Hassan later opened

an indoor sports hall and the university stadium and visited an earth dam which the university is constructing at a cost of JD 87,000.

The Crown Prince highlighted Jordan's distinguished role in the field of innovative industries and called for extending support for these industries through the Higher Council of Science and Technology and the various investment sectors.

The Regent also called for standardising all designs for public facilities, noting that housing schemes entail the construction of industrial cities and communities and providing them with all the necessary facilities and utilities.

British MP blasts Israeli brutality, arrogance

(Continued from page one)

the population of the Palestinians in the occupied territories is going to result in there being more Arabs than there are Jews in a land that the Jews currently control."

Marlow appeared convinced that these worries and concerns would make Israel accept the reality that there is no alternative to coming to some sort of a solution. He said the Jordanian break with the West Bank "is going to help" the Palestinian quest for liberation and self-determination.

Asked how he assessed Jordan's break with the West Bank to make way for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to shoulder its responsibilities as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, Marlow said: "King Hussein has allowed the Palestinians to take the initiative, clarify the situation and clear the air themselves."

"They (Palestinians) now realise that they must make the solutions for themselves with the help of Arab states and friends around the world."

The Jordanian move also dispelled the "Israeli propaganda that there is a Jordanian option," Marlow said. "The option does not exist."

MP Tim Wood, another member of the British parliamentary delegation, told the Jordan Times that Britain was awaiting moves by the Palestine National Council (PNC), which is expected to meet next month to discuss Palestinian options in the wake of the Jordanian decision.

"The British government will then be able to urge the United States to persuade Israel to take a more constructive role so there can be an international peace

conference, which has prospects for success," Wood said.

Sanctions 'useless' Asked whether he advocated imposing sanctions against Israel as a form of pressuring the Zionist state to end its oppression of the Palestinians living in the occupied territories, Marlow said Britain adheres to a policy circumventing sanctions "because we feel that they (sanctions) are useless."

He cited the case of South Africa as an example of how "ineffective" sanctions could be. "They have their own resources, they are self dependent... sanctions would not touch them," he said.

But in Israel's case, Marlow conceded that it was "very dependent on support from outside and has no resources of its own."

"I personally advocate sanctions against Israel but I also feel that the Palestinians living in the occupied territories would be hurt first and that the U.S. will continue to help Israel," Marlow said.

Wood said that the PNC would have to come up with political decisions and statements that could be used to persuade the U.S. and some Western states that it was time to press hard for a Middle East peace conference, "now is the opportunity that should be taken to avoid problems which could stretch into many more years."

According to Wood, PNC statements and decisions have to "demonstrate that the majority of the Palestinians do want to renounce violence, accept the continuing existence of the state of Israel and that they are prepared and determined to negotiate with Israel to achieve self-determination."

Asked whether this meant that direct negotiations with Israel could rule out an international peace conference, Wood said: "No, the interests of many countries have to bear on the resolutions, but I do believe that there has to be a conference that involves all the concerned parties in the regions and, the Palestinians and the Israelis."

Marlow said that the PLO had to use "this window of opportunity."

Wood refuted the idea that the British Conservative Party is a staunch supporter of Israel but conceded that the "Conservative Party has spoken harshly against 'terrorism' and has strongly resisted and fought violence, and this might have been interpreted differently."

A report carried by Reuters quoted Marlow Sunday as saying that he was told that South African military advisers were helping the Israeli army to quell the Palestinian uprising. Marlow told the Jordan Times that "we were given reports while we were there (in the occupied territories) that senior South African officers and generals were seen in civilian clothes walking around the camps with Israeli officers in uniform."

He said that according to the reports, "they were probably discussing what action to take to contain the intifada, but we did not see them ourselves."

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, met with the British delegation Saturday. Marlow said the Regent "gave us a very careful deeply thought-out analysis. It was a very valuable addition to the information we had already collected."

The British delegation Sunday met with Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, director general of the Palestinian Affairs Department.

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CBJ opens wide financial competitiveness

Jordan floats interest rates, commissions

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times economics correspondent

AMMAN — A surprise and historic decision by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to float interest rates on deposits, current accounts and commissions drew positive reactions Sunday from bankers who described it as an appropriate and overdue response to market forces.

They said the move was sure to raise interest rates on deposits and loans and was expected to put more restrictions on credit and to curb speculation on the Jordanian market.

The CBJ decision is seen by bankers as a positive move to increase deposits with higher interest rates that are competitive with interest paid on other foreign currencies abroad.

Dr. Jawad Hadid, deputy general manager of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank said the CBJ move came in response to market forces and the principle of supply and demand and to discourage speculation on the Jordanian market.

"The government is keen to put more restrictions on credit to deter speculation on the market," Hadid told the Jordan Times.

He said the new interest rate structure allowed speculators to put pressure on the dinar by borrowing against the dinar without being penalised through an interest rate mechanism.

"Now, any speculation will lead to higher interest rates and vice versa," Hadid declared, adding that the government intends to put more restrictions on credit to check any inflationary

pressures that could reduce the purchasing power of the dinar. He pointed out that the new measures will help maintain the value of the Jordanian currency in foreign exchange markets.

On the other hand, Hadid acknowledged that higher interest rates would result in a "marginally higher cost on imports of goods and services and a decline in demand for credit."

Bankers told the Jordan Times that the central bank has also allowed resident Jordanians to buy foreign currencies locally and open accounts in foreign currencies in Jordanian banks. The decision reverses a ban on such transactions introduced by the central bank last June.

Hadid believes that the new decision would restore flexibility in the domestic exchange market by allowing for the two markets — exchange houses and the banking system — to operate at the same time.

He said that the ability of moneychangers to borrow money to buy foreign currencies have been curtailed by the new change on the interest rate structure. Another banker, who preferred anonymity, said the decision was long overdue. "This decision

should have come in June," the banker told the Jordan Times. "The new decision is bound to raise prices a little bit, particularly on luxury goods, which will automatically reduce consumption of these goods."

He expressed hope that the Ministry of Industry and Trade would cooperate by curbing imports of "unnecessary" goods to limit consumption and preserve the Kingdom's foreign reserves.

The banker said that the new measures will make interest on

the Jordan dinar competitive with interest on foreign currencies such as the U.S. dollar.

He noted that the new situation would also increase competition among banks in Jordan and improve efficiency and the variety of services on the long run.

Hadid noted that with more flexible interest rates, there should be a wider margin in interest rates on loans. He said the margin would be determined by the tenor, quality and size of the loan.

He believes that there will be a narrower margin for prime customers and a bigger margin for other borrowers in a way that the rate is commensurate with the risk involved.

In a memorandum issued to banks and financial institutions, the CBJ decided that interest rates on direct credit facilities in the Jordan dinar will be nine per cent. Specialised lending institutions would charge a maximum of nine per cent interest.

The interest rate on direct credit

facilities for non-resident customers would be 12 per cent.

Commission on all forms of direct credit facilities to resident and non-resident customers will be at no less than the following rates:

1 - 0.5 per cent for banks and financial companies.

2 - One per cent for specialised lending institutions for credits with maturity over three years and 0.5 per cent for shorter term credits.

3 - Interest rates charged by the central bank on loans offered to

banks and financial companies to encourage national exports will be as follows:

A - Four per cent on national exports to Arab states excluding Gulf Cooperation Council states.

B - Three per cent on national exports to Gulf Cooperation Council states and other countries.

C - Banks and financial companies will charge Jordanian exporters one per cent interest and a flat commission of 0.5 per cent in addition to interest rates mentioned in A and B.

4 - The CBJ rediscount rates for its loans will be seven per cent.

5 - All reporting requirements from banks and financial institutions will continue as before.

6 - The above decisions become immediately effective, withstanding previous agreements. The overdraft contract for a year shall be applicable for one year from the date of its signing or renewal.

7 - This memorandum cancels any previous instructions that contradict its rules.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Bahraini iron plant to resume operations

BAHRAIN (R) — A \$300 million iron pellet plant in Bahrain will resume production in mid-November after a three-year shutdown, company officials said Saturday. Awwad Al Khalid, chairman and managing director of the newly-formed Gulf Industrial Investment Company (GIIC), told Reuters the plant — the only one of its kind in a Gulf Arab state — would restart Nov. 15. The Kuwait Petroleum Company bought the struggling plant, formerly the Arab Iron and Steel Company, earlier this year and formed GIIC to operate it with a capital of \$130 million.

FAO predicts very low cereal stocks

ROME (R) — North America's drought is sending world cereal stocks to their lowest in more than a decade and below a minimum needed for food security, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Saturday. Carryover stocks at the end of the 1988-89 crop year would be 16 per cent of anticipated consumption for the next year, it said. The FAO regards 17 to 18 per cent as a minimum.

Jeddah port deliveries rise 7.8 per cent

RIYADH (R) — Goods handled by Saudi Arabia's main Red Sea port of Jeddah rose in the first quarter of 1988, signalling the first increase in business for more than three years. Statistics compiled by the Saudi Seaports Authority (Seapa) said freight deliveries at the port for the three-month period ending March 31 went up 7.8 per cent to 6.61 million tonnes from 6.22 million tonnes in the first quarter of 1987.

S. Korea to double aid to Third World

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea will add 130 billion won (\$180.5 million) next year to its official aid loan fund for developing countries, creating a pool of 250 billion won (\$347.2 million), the finance ministry has said.

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G-7 agrees to maintain stable exchange rates for currencies

BERLIN (AP) — Finance leaders of the world's seven key industrial powers agreed Saturday to maintain stable financial markets, guard against higher inflation and help heavily indebted poor countries.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and other finance officials ended daylong talks on the outskirts of Berlin with a statement emphasising "their continued interest in stable exchange rates among their currencies."

In addition to the United States, finance chiefs from Britain, Canada, Italy, Japan, France and West Germany took part in the talks at the villa Borsig, site of the German development Foundation. In their statement, the officials said inflationary pressures were being held in check. "There is little evidence of a general inflationary threat," it said. "Nonetheless, continued vigilance is required."

Canadian Finance Minister Michael Wilson called the meeting "upbeat."

A British source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, described the leaders' talks as "very constructive." "There was no banging on the table or anything like that," he said. "They were very much united in what needs to be done."

In reviewing the world economic performance, the leaders said: "Growth is continuing at a faster pace than expected earlier in the year. Employment has increased. There has also been a strong increase in investment. Inflation pressures are being contained."

The leaders' statement did not single out the policies of any country for criticism. But in an obvious reference to the United States' deficit spending, it said, "where external and budget deficits are still large, the strengthening of the fiscal position will be essential."

It also called on countries with large trade surpluses to encourage greater domestic demand.

The officials also agreed to resist protectionist trade pressures.

The report added.

MOROCCAN PORTS REGISTER RECORD ACTIVITY

CASABLANCA (R) — Morocco's ports witnessed record levels of activity in 1987, shipping more than 35.2 million tonnes of goods — a 6.8 per cent rise on the previous year, the Moroccan News Agency MAP reported. Citing the annual report of port authorities, it said the improvement was due to increases in shipping of coal, cereals, phosphoric acid, sulphur and baryte. The number of ships calling at Morocco's ports was up 3.3 per cent on 1986. However, the upturn in activity was not uniform throughout the country with both Casablanca and Agadir registering drops in traffic of 1.8 and 1.2 per cent respectively. All other ports saw increases, the report added.

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AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Sunday rates Local sell/buy rates in Jds			
Belgian franc (for 10)	95.40	96.40	
Dutch guilder	176.90	178.70	
French franc	61.30	62.20	
Italian lira (for 100)	26.90	27.20	
Japanese yen (for 100)	274.70	277.40	
Swedish crown	60.00	61.00	
Swiss franc	249.30	252.30	
U.K. sterling pound	659.00	667.30	
U.S. dollar	396.00	398.00	
Deutschmark	210.70	213.10	
Saudi riyal		105.30	106.80
Syrian lira (for JD 1)		96.00	98.00
Lebanese lira (for JD 1)		900.00	920.00
Iraqi dinar		385.00	395.00
Kuwaiti dinar		1373.70	1381.20
Qatari riyal		162.70	167.70
UAE dirham		108.10	109.00
Omani riyal		107.40	108.10
Bahraini dinar		1041.20	1048.70

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for September 25, 1988.

	Number	Volume	Contracts
Regular market:	157603	JD 183462	268
Top three companies:			
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	17850	JD 30857	47
Arab Bank Ltd.	240	JD 26160	7
Dar Al Shabb Press, Printing and Publishing	22950	JD 15417	20
Parallel market:	368	JD 143	—
Development bonds:	231	JD 2322	—
Treasury bills & bonds:	—	—	—
Other debentures:	—	—	—

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663194	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	656321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	666151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	644747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662558
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance Companies	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	General Statistics Department	846171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181		
Social Security Corporation	643000		
Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation	721194		

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Cinema **RAINBOW** Tel: 625155

NAKED VENGEANCE

Performances 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **NIJOUN** Tel: 675571

The Secret of My Success

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420

BACK TO SCHOOL

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Optimism surrounds southern Africa talks

NAIROBI (R) — South Africa, Angola and Cuba start a seventh round of peace talks on Monday amid diplomatic moves to end the escalating guerrilla war in Angola and mounting optimism that an accord is within reach.

Expectation that the three sides meeting in Brazzaville under U.S. mediation can clinch a peace deal at this round has risen sharply after a visit to South Africa and Angola last week by United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Perez de Cuellar said after talks with South African President P.W. Botha and Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos that all sides were now very close to implementing a 10-year-old U.N. plan giving independence to South African-ruled

Namibia. But South Africa, Angola and Cuba, racing to meet a Nov. 1 deadline to start the U.N. plan, have still to agree on a timetable for a withdrawal of an estimated 50,000 Cuban troops from Angola, the last major obstacle to a regional peace accord.

"There is a substantial gap to be bridged," one diplomat closely involved in the negotiations said after the last round of talks in Brazzaville Sept. 7-9 in which negotiators outlined a possible compromise on a Cuban with-

drawal timetable. The latest Brazzaville round opens against the background of a diplomatic offensive by Pretoria's white-led government to improve relations with its black-ruled neighbours and a military offensive by the government of Angola against UNITA rebels backed by the United States and South Africa.

South Africa, through its official media, has raised the idea of a meeting between Botha and African leaders to discuss ending the war in Angola between the government and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola).

The meeting, widely expected to follow the three-day Brazzaville talks, is backed by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko and tallies with U.S. efforts to persuade the Angolan government to negotiate an internal peace.

Gorbachev urges patience with reform programme

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said in published remarks Saturday that critics have unfairly blasted his reforms for not alleviating consumer shortages and urged more time be given to let his programme work.

Gorbachev acknowledged the government is feeling its way through perestroika, or his programme of restructuring, that mistakes might be made and that people should not expect miracles.

The 57-year-old leader spoke Friday to media executives, heads of ideological institutions and cultural leaders, a segment of society considered at the forefront of his reform programme of openness, or glasnost.

The official TASS news agency did not report his remarks until Saturday.

"According to some speeches and publications, one may gather the impression that perestroika has almost aggravated the state of affairs in the economy, disrupted finances and worsened the supply

of food and goods, exacerbated housing and other social problems," Gorbachev said.

The criticism, he said, was misdirected.

"Why ascribe to perestroika what was connected with the preceding period? It was precisely the burden of old problems that led to the necessity of perestroika."

He said the press should not just complain that store shelves are empty but should analyse the reasons for the shortages and explore solutions in the reform programme.

Since a plenary meeting of the Communist Party's policy-making Central Committee in late July, the official press has been full of reports about shortages of food and consumer goods.

Gorbachev has said repeatedly that improving supplies and the overall living conditions for Soviets is a top government and party priority.

He told the media executives that economic reforms such as self-financing and cost-accounting

for businesses had not yet been fully implemented and that an overhaul of the political structure was only just beginning.

"Don't dispose people to a miracle. It's necessary to rid the social consciousness of such a harmful complex as a belief in a 'good czar,' an all-powerful centre in which someone from on high will bring order and organise perestroika."

He said life will tell whether mistakes are made in the perestroika he launched in April 1985, one month after taking power, but that people should not be afraid of them.

Perestroika, he said, "is a creative process, and it has its own dialectics, own contradictions, own drama."

Speaking about the role of the press, Gorbachev said newspapers and magazines have published only those letters from readers suiting the editor's taste, and he urged them to: "Publish everything. There must be a pluralism of opinions."

S. Koreans furious over media coverage

SEOUL (R) — South Koreans fumed Sunday over television coverage of a boxing riot by the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), the U.S. network which has sole American rights to Olympic broadcasts.

Park Jun-Byung, secretary-general of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), said NBC was provoking resentment of South Koreans through its "biased news broadcasts" disparaging the host country.

He told the national news agency Yonhap that NBC's use of film from the 1950-53 Korean War and its handling of Thursday's boxing brawl could fuel anti-Americanism "which is already on the rise in Korea."

Kevin Monaghan, NBC's

Olympic information director, said the criticism was "extremely unfair."

"NBC thinks very warmly of Korea," he said. The public relations value Korea has received in the United States is unmatched.

NBC bought U.S. rights to Olympic coverage for more than \$300 million and is beaming hours of sport and news from South Korea daily into American living rooms.

The controversy stemmed from a four-minute ring brawl.

Fans led by South Korean boxing officials attacked referee Keith Walker with sticks and chairs after he eliminated local featherweight hope Byun Jong-Il on a points decision.

Opposition says Avril at mercy of soldiers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — A prominent opposition politician said Haiti's new military president, Lieutenant-General Prosper Avril, may not wield enough power on his own to determine when elections could be held.

"The soldiers have made it clear that he is their hostage," said Louis Dejoie, leader of the centrist Agricultural and Industrial Party and a likely candidate in any presidential election.

"The government is provisional," Dejoie said Saturday. "It must satisfy the demands of the people and the soldiers."

Avril, 50, the former army adjutant general, assumed the presidency after rank-and-file soldiers ousted Lt.-Gen. Henri Namphy Sept. 17, sent him into exile, then mutinied against their commanders.

At the time, Avril said he had accepted an offer from the soldiers to become president, and it is believed he is now sharing

power with them, including coup leader Joseph Heurbeux, a 27-year-old army medic.

Sylvio Claude, leader of the Populist Christian Democratic Party, met with Avril and unidentified Sergeants Friday at the national palace, and said later the president agreed to restore the 1987 constitution.

That charter, ignored by Namphy after he overthrew civilian President Leslie Manigat on June 20, provides for an elected, civilian government.

Claude, who gained prominence as a critic of the Duvalier family dictatorship, said Avril also agreed to establish freedom of assembly and speech and to punish those responsible for mass killings.

Claude said, however, that Avril refused to set a timetable for elections, saying it would not be possible within six months and probably not before two-and-a-half years.

Japanese queue to pray for emperor

TOKYO (R) — More than 25,000 Japanese queued outside the Imperial Palace to pray for Emperor Hirohito's recovery.

Japan's 77-year-old monarch has received multiple blood transfusions since collapsing last week and palace officials said they were not sure internal bleeding had stopped.

Despite the rain, the crowds were heavier than in past days as the emperor's condition appeared graver.

One 85-year-old man at the palace gates said: "In 1943, when I was in the army, I was willing to lay down my life for him. Nothing has changed."

"I would die in his stead if I could."

Many clasped their hands and bowed their heads in prayer in the tradition of the Shinto religion. Some said they waited as long as an hour to pray. The emperor was worshipped as a living Shinto god until the end of World War II.

Both young and old trudged into the muddy grounds of the outer palace. Hirohito, who has reigned since 1926, is the only emperor many have known.

Many Shinto festivals scheduled at this time in Tokyo districts have been cancelled due to the emperor's condition.

Officials of the secretive imperial household agency would not say whether the monarch was conscious. They said his condition was stable.

On Sunday morning, the emperor's fifth daughter Takako Shimazu told reporters after visiting her father's bedside: "I was able to talk to him, and felt relieved."

Hirohito, the world's longest reigning monarch, collapsed last Monday after vomiting blood in his sleep.

He received at least one blood transfusion Sunday and was scheduled to be given coagulants. Doctors have given him about 2,600 cubic centimetres (CC) of blood since his collapse last week, court officials said.

The normal human body contains about 5,000 CC of blood.



Two-year-old Jessica Hayes steals the show as Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis addresses a gathering in Brookline, Massachusetts, last week.

U.S. presidential rivals sharpen wits, tongues

BOSTON (R) — Democrat Michael Dukakis and Republican George Bush Sunday were braced for a 90-minute campaign debate that marked a critical crossroads in their race for the U.S. presidency.

Dukakis, said by advisers to be relaxed and confident after four days of drills in his New England hometown, was to arrive in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, for the televised encounter right behind Bush, who described himself as "laid back" as he finished prepping in Washington.

The candidates were to answer questions from three journalists and a moderator at Wake Forest University (eds: at 0000 GMT Monday) before a television audience projected at more than 100 million.

The debate, the first of two before the Nov. 8 election, was promoted like a championship boxing match with the biggest trophy possible — the White House — potentially riding on the outcome.

Public opinion polls indicate Bush holds a slender lead in the battle to succeed President Reagan, but the numbers suggest voters are not wild about him or Dukakis, leading political experts to conclude the contest is still wide open.

As the news media played up the stakes involved, the Dukakis and Bush camps engaged in furious rounds of political "poor-mouthing," minimising their respective candidate's prospects in the debate and trying to put the

burden for a strong performance on the other man.

Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton, who was among those who helped Dukakis prepare, told reporters Saturday he believed the Massachusetts governor would win the debate "just by being there."

"George Bush has an overwhelming advantage in terms of his ears of national exposure and the level of knowledge the American voters feel they have of him," Clinton said.

"I think if Dukakis can simply be himself and communicate his convictions and his feelings about the issues, he'll do fine," he added.

Bush backers, all too conscious of the vice president's propensity for verbal slips — a trait that led a Democratic official from his adopted home state of Texas to quip that Bush was born "with a silver foot in his mouth" — disparaged their man's debating skills and noted that Dukakis once hosted a debate-style television programme.

In fact, both candidates went into their face-to-face confrontation with extensive experience to guide them. Aides said Dukakis was involved in 39 debates, three of them one-on-one events, during the presidential primary campaign.

Bush, who has been a participant in every presidential campaign since 1980 as a candidate for the Republican nomination or as Reagan's running mate, has taken part in at least as many debates as his Democratic rival.

Allende's widow returns home

SANTIAGO (AP) — Salvador Allende's widow returned home Saturday for the first time since the Marxist president was deposed and died in a 1973 coup. Thousands cheered as she drove through a working-class neighbourhood.

Later Saturday, an estimated 100,000 people massed peacefully at an opposition rally.

"I don't bring rancor or a spirit of revenge," Hortensia Bussi de Allende said when she arrived with a daughter, Carmen Paz, on a commercial flight from Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Her return Saturday came 23 days after military President Augusto Pinochet, who is pursuing a new eight-year term in an Oct. 5 referendum, ended the official exile of 304 leftists, including Mrs. Allende and her children.

President Allende died in the 1973 military coup that swept Pinochet into power.

Opposition political groups are campaigning for General Pinochet's defeat in the referendum.

Thousands gathered on the outskirts of Santiago for performances Saturday by two leftist folk music groups, Inti Illimani and

Illapu, once exiled by the right-wing government.

The opposition rally was organised by a group called Independents for the No Vote, led by lawyer Alejandro Hales.

Allende did not attend the rally. Earlier, thousands cheered Allende as her motorcade from the suburban airport entered the city. She vowed to support the opposition campaign.

"We want a Chile where the rights of man will be fully respected," Allende said. "Our message is not fear but hope, not hate but joy. It is not the past, but the future, that we will build together."

The silver-haired, 74-year-old widow's voice broke as she recalled the death of another daughter, Beatriz, who committed suicide six years ago in Havana, Cuba.

"My daughter Beatriz, who like so many other Chileans loved her fatherland, never saw it again," Allende said.

Allende, followed by a caravan of hundreds of cars containing sympathisers, travelled from the airport through several working-class neighbourhoods.

Yugoslavs stage massive protest

BELGRADE (R) — Tens of thousands of Yugoslavs have defied Communist Party leaders by staging the country's biggest political demonstration and plan new ones Sunday despite pleas to stop them.

An estimated 150,000 rallied Saturday in the south Serbian town of Nis. Over 20,000 gathered in Vrsac and Bela Crkva, in Serbia's northern autonomous province of Vojvodina.

The protests were the latest in a wave of unrest among Serbs over their alleged persecution by ethnic Albanians in the autonomous Kosovo Province, bordering Albania.

Leaders in Vojvodina and the southern Republic of Montenegro Saturday condemned the protest rallies, saying they were being manipulated by nationalists.

But Serb activists from Kosovo planned further protests Sunday in Vojvodina's capital Novi Sad

and in the Montenegro town of Andrijevica.

"The Vojvodina leadership has never been against the right of citizens to assemble, particularly not against solidarity meetings over the justified discontent of Serbs and Montenegrins from Kosovo," a statement by the Vojvodina leadership said.

"But it most sharply condemns political manipulations and pressures related to constitutional changes in the Socialist Republic of Serbia."

The protesters are supporting a constitutional reform drive by Serbian Communist Party leader Slobodan Milosevic to reduce Kosovo's autonomy and bring it under the direct control of Serbia, the biggest of Yugoslavia's six republics.

Protesters in Nis demanded the imposition of a state of emergency in Kosovo, the dismissal of all its officials and the freezing of all its institutions.

Afghan rebels seek recognition from U.N.

ISLAMABAD (R) — The head of an "interim government" set up by Afghan rebels based in Pakistan asked the United Nations Saturday to recognise it as sole representative of Afghanistan.

The letter from the government's prime minister, Ahmad Shah, asking U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to put his request to the General Assembly was released in Islamabad.

But a spokesman for one rebel party dismissed it as a personal initiative by Shah and said it had not been discussed by leaders of the seven-party rebel alliance.

Shah said official recognition of his government would pave the way for its membership in the United Nations, where the Soviet-backed Kabul administration currently holds a seat.

Shah also criticised U.N. Afghan mediator Diego Cordovez, saying his proposal for a broad-based neutral administration acceptable to both sides was illegal and cruel.

Cordovez said Sept. 15 that he

had a list of 30 prominent, respected Afghans who might head such an interim government, to rule until after Soviet troops complete their withdrawal Feb. 15.

Afghan sources said Shah's message was intended as a response to Cordovez's remarks, which have angered hard-liners among the rebels.

Shah comes from the hard-line "Islamist" wing of the rebel alliance, which is against any compromise with Kabul.

But a spokesman for the Mahaz-i-Milli-i-Islami Party, which is on the moderate wing and takes a more favourable view of Cordovez's efforts, criticised Shah's move.

"He (Shah) and his backers are against U.N. efforts for peace in Afghanistan, yet at the same time they apply for recognition," he said.

The rebel "interim government" was set up by the alliance to take over and supervise elections after the fall of the current Kabul administration. But it has yet to be officially recognised by any country.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Czech police break up protest

PRAGUE (AP) — Police forcibly broke up a peace demonstration Saturday in Wenceslas Square and detained 47 people, the state news agency CTK said. Protesters from the independent Peace Association and Czech children groups grouped Saturday evening near the statue of Saint Wenceslas, where demonstrators last month tried to gather the day before the 11th anniversary of the Soviet-led invasion. On Aug. 21, 1968, Warsaw Pact troops and tanks moved into Czechoslovakia to stop reforms being pioneered by then-communist leader Alexander Dubcek. In Wenceslas Square, police filmed activists as plainclothes and uniformed police lingered with crowds of curious bystanders watching from sidewalks.

India, Pakistan end round of talks

NEW DELHI (AP) — Pakistan and India ended a fourth round of border talks Saturday and agreed to meet again in Islamabad early next year. The talks began Friday and focused on the 80-kilometre Siachen glacier, which both countries claim. A statement issued by Indian Defence Secretary T.N. Sheshan and his Pakistani counterpart, Syed Iqbal Haider Zaidi, described the discussions as "frank and friendly," but did not elaborate. The statement said the next round of talks would be held in Islamabad in January or February. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since 1947 and have tens of thousands of troops stationed along the 1,150-kilometre border.

Moscow drops Far East travel curbs

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union has scrapped rules which effectively closed a vast region facing the sea of Japan to most outside visitors for the past 50 years, the government newspaper Izvestia reported Saturday. The region, known as the Primorsky Krai, has a population of some two million people and includes the port city of Vladivostok which is home base for the Soviet navy's Pacific fleet. Since the late 1930s, foreigners have been totally barred from visiting the region and Soviet citizens from other parts of the country who wanted to go there have had to obtain special passes which were normally refused. Many areas along the Soviet Union's land and sea borders are subject to similar travel restrictions, introduced under the rule of Kremlin dictator Josef Stalin.

Two bombs explode in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Urban guerrillas kept up a bombing campaign in South Africa over the weekend with two blasts in coastal cities, police said Sunday. In east London a limpet mine exploded in a car park of the beachfront Holiday Inn hotel, damaging nine vehicles late Saturday night. A civilian spotted the bomb under a car and the area was evacuated before the blast, the police said in their regular daily report on unrest. Farther north up the Indian Ocean coast in Durban, a bomb shook a city centre railway station early Sunday, causing no casualties and only slight damage, police said. The attacks bring this month's total of bombings to more than 20, including at least five last week which injured 47 people.

Reagan's daughter meets Chissano

MAPUTO (AP) — Maureen Reagan, daughter of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, delivered a message from her father to President Joaquim Chissano Saturday and described her meeting as "extremely important." During an airport news conference before her departure, Reagan did not disclose the contents of the message but said she was returning to Washington with Chissano's reply. The president's daughter spent 24 hours in the country as the head of a presidential commission on refugees. She visited a centre for children who had been rescued from the Mozambique National Resistance, guerrillas fighting to topple the Marxist-oriented government.

COLUMN 10

'Reagan up in space already'

HOUSTON (R) — President Reagan Thursday joked he had no need for a space shuttle to get into space because he was already there. "I've been there for several years," Reagan told reporters when asked whether he would like to go up in space. The president made the remark as he arrived in Houston for a visit to the Johnson Space Centre, where he met the five Discovery astronauts and addressed employees.

Cat has at least two lives

OVERLAND PARK (AP) — A part Siamese cat, hurried for four days among the debris of her family's home that was levelled by a natural gas explosion, has been found alive. The siam cat called Mindy was discovered by a worker digging through the debris. "The employee jumped away because Mindy did a look too much like a cat at the time," said Peggy Squibbs, a relative of the Mindy's family. Rex Deaver, his wife, Lorriane, and their two children were thrown from the house when it exploded. All four escaped serious injury. Mindy's white fur is now yellow. She lost almost all her whiskers and the tips of her nose and ears and the pads of her paws were burned. But the cat's veterinarian, Dr. Patricia Stewart, said Mindy's spirits were good and she might be going home by the end of the week.

Ferguson joins Duke in Sydney

LONDON (AP) — The Duchess of York will join her husband in Australia on an official visit marking the country's bicentennial — the first time the couple has been together since shortly after their daughter was born one month ago. The duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, was scheduled to arrive in Sydney three days ahead of Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, said a Buckingham Palace spokesman. The prince, a royal navy lieutenant, is on a Far East tour of duty with the HMS Edinburgh, which will dock in Sydney Sunday, said the spokesman, who was not identified in keeping with British custom.

1976 gold medallist has baby girl

PALM SPRINGS (AP) — Former world figure skating champion Dorothy Hamill-Forsythe has glided into a new role: mother. Hamill-Forsythe, an Olympic gold medallist in 1976 gave birth to a daughter at Desert Hospital, spokesman Randy Bevilacqua said. She and her 3.2-kilogramme baby, named Alexandra, have left the hospital for home. "Mother and baby are both doing fine," said Bevilacqua. The former skating star is married to Dr. Kenneth Forsythe.

Fonda's tape back on the shelves

GROTON (AP) — Jane Fonda's exercise videotapes are back on the shelves of a naval submarine base store after the commanding officer reversed a decision to remove them, a base spokesman said. Declaring that the tapes are not prejudicial to good order and discipline, Captain John Cox ordered that the store could again sell them. Lieutenant Commander John Ward said. The tapes had been removed from the military store's shelves after complaints about Fonda's anti-Vietnam war activities, Ward said. Ward said while Cox was on leave, an officer ordered the tapes removed from the shelves. When the captain returned, he ordered the tapes put back. The tapes are not big sellers at the base, Ward said.

Drifter convicted in 'vampire' case

MINNEAPOLIS (R) — A 19-year-old drifter, said to have killed a man to suck his blood, has been found guilty of first-degree murder by a Minnesota court. Timothy Erickson, who had pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, was convicted Friday for the grisly slaying of 30-year-old Donald Gall, a fellow drifter, last March 22. Erickson was alleged to have told police that before the murder he and two other youths talked about finding a victim and slashing his wrists to drink his blood. The other youths, aged 17 and 13, still await trial for Gall's murder. At the time of their arrest, the three said they formed a vampire cult after repeatedly watching the movie "The Lost Boys" about a gang of teen-aged vampires.

THE JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION

Purchase - Tender

The Jordan Press Foundation needs to purchase 1,000 tonnes of newspaper roll-paper - weight 45 grammes G&F Aqaba.

Those interested in taking part in the tender should contact the warehouses and supplies superintendent during office hours to examine the tender's conditions and specifications.

Last day for bidding is Oct. 15, 1988.